

U.S. special envoy sees hope in Sudanese peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Before leaving to observe the next round of peace talks on Sudan's civil war, U.S. diplomatic troubleshooter Melissa Wells said Thursday that she detects a window of opportunity for ending the conflict that has plagued Africa's largest nation for the past 11 years and killed 1.5 million Sudanese.

Ambassador Wells, who was named special representative to Sudan by President Clinton last May, told a briefing at the State Department that her plan is to visit the region and attend the next round of Sudanese peace talks that open in Nairobi, Kenya on Sept. 5.

What is "extremely significant," Ms. Wells said, is that during the last negotiations which took place in July to August, the government in Khartoum discussed for the first time since independence in 1956 "the two underlying problems" to the conflict. She cited these as being the right of the people of southern Sudan to decide "what form of government they wish to live under" and the issue of "religion and the state."

"I'm not saying the millennium has arrived," she noted, but "I found it very healthy that the doors and windows... were all opened" to discuss topics that were considered taboo before, "a good sign" for a political settlement.

(In 1993 Amnesty International charged Sudan with the "ethnic cleansing" of the Nuba people of southern Sudan and of gross human rights violations in other parts of the southern war zone. North-South talks brokered by the Nigerian government in 1992-93 in Abuja ended without result. The current Sudan peace talks in Nairobi are sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which includes: Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda.)

Ms. Wells, a career diplomat and former ambassador to Mozambique who has made two trips to the region since her appointment, said "the U.S. government is now giving its full backing to the IGADD process" and to the nations of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda who are active mediators in the peace process.

Asked about the armed conflict in southern Sudan, Ms. Wells acknowledged that "the war in Sudan continues. However, on July 22 the government announced a unilateral ceasefire and this was followed a few days later by the southern factions. It got off to a rocky start but it is still holding."

Unfortunately, she added, "serious fighting still continues among the southern-based SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) factions."

This split in the southern faction is "absolutely devastating in terms of what it means to the peace process," Ms. Wells said, and is something that "those of us on the outside who are trying to bring peace to the country are stressing over and over again to the southern faction."

While famine, which came about by "factional fighting among the southerners," has been largely averted in the region known as the "Hunger Triangle," Ms. Wells said "the threat of death by famine is (still) a very real one."

Explaining that the U.S. government spends about \$2 million a week in humanitarian assistance to Sudan, Ms. Wells said "what is troubling is that about half of that is being spent on air transport."

A topic of major interest for donors like the United States at the Sudan peace talks therefore, will be the "opening of corridors to Sudan" for relief supplies, the diplomat said.

This means pushing to implement a May 1994 agreement reached under IGADD that will open "road corridors, rail and barge transport" to the delivery of relief supplies to Sudan's stricken areas. She added that "this can never work unless there is some type of monitoring mechanism and

that is what we are working on."

Asked if U.S. displeasure toward Sudan as a country supporting terrorism would change because of its recent extradition to France of the international terrorist "Carlos the Jackal," Ms. Wells responded that while "the question of Carlos never came up in any of my discussions" with the Sudanese, "I have reiterated the U.S. government's longstanding policy" on countries supporting terrorism and emphasized that it remained "a major obstacle to the betterment of relations between the two countries."

Ambassador David Shinn, Director of the State Department's Office of East African Affairs, agreed that the release of Carlos is "a welcome step" but that "a lot of other issues concerning terrorism vis-a-vis Sudan" remain. He said that the U.S. will "continue to push on the Sudanese to grapple with these problems in addition to some of the human rights issues. So, the overall question of support for terrorism has not gone away — it's still very much there."

Shinn also said the release would have a direct impact upon "our position dealing with the Sudanese in the peace process."

Pressed on whether the release of Carlos meant Sudan was "divesting itself of terrorists," Mr. Shinn replied that although "we would hope that happens," it was far too early to say. "The turning over of Carlos to the French is only several days old now and we do not have any evidence to suggest that this is the beginning of something bigger to come," the official said.

Asked about relations between Libya and Sudan, Mr. Shinn commented that "we have the impression that relations are frankly not particularly warm at the moment. They have run hot and cold (and) I think the current government in Khartoum is one that has traditionally not had a real warm relationship with the Libyans."

On Dec. 29, France sent back to Iran two Iranians wanted in Switzerland in connection with the murder of Kazem Rajavi, the brother of Massoud Rajavi and leader of the Iranian armed opposition Mujahideen. France ignored a Swiss request for the extradition of the two saying the decision to send the pair home was "in the national interest."

Al Ahram said Egyptian authorities had "video tapes showing Carlos in Khartoum."

Mr. Nafee, who is close to President Hosni Mubarak, said "reports" drawn up "in the days following Carlos' arrival in Khartoum" last December proved that "there were special ties between

Iran and the Sudanese regime."

The editorial said that according to these reports, Carlos arrived at Khartoum airport amid draconian security measures and in secret.

"He was met by an officer of the Sudanese security forces," Nafee said.

According to Al Ahram, Carlos was travelling on an Arab passport in the name of Abdullah Barakat and enjoyed "a certain immunity in his movements inside Sudan."

The paper said Carlos "carried a gun, was escorted by two bodyguards and drank alcohol in public" in violation of Sudan's Islamic laws banning alcohol consumption.

Carlos also "visited certain institutions and academies of the Sudanese armed forces in the company of a high-ranking officer on the pretext of teaching 'strategy,'" the editorial said.

Mr. Nafee said that although Egypt had known for months that Carlos was in Sudan, it "decided to keep quiet... out of regard for the Sudanese people," even though his presence tended

to "confirm the Sudanese regime's involvement in terrorist operations."

In Geneva Thursday, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a human rights organization operating in 40 countries, announced that it had asked France either to confirm or deny that it had sent back to Iran the two suspects implicated in Rajavi's murder as part of a deal related to Carlos' arrest.

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua "has denied any deal with Sudan but has not yet referred to Iran," a spokesman for the organization said.

He added that in view of the French government's "astonishing" decision to hand over to Iran the two alleged murderers, the IFOR requests the French representative to confirm to the (U.N.) sub-commission (on human rights) that there was no deal via Iran concerning Carlos."

Officials with the subcommission disclosed that a resolution requesting Iran to return the two suspects to Switzerland will be voted on next Wednesday.



DEVASTATION: A woman walks amid the remains of a house destroyed after an earthquake devastated a large part of northwestern Algeria on Thursday. Many of the survivors were in shock amid the heavy damage caused by the quake, measured at between 5.4 and 5.6 on the open-ended Richter scale. The death toll was put at 164 and expected to rise further (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Iran had role in Carlos handover to France, Al Ahram says

CAIRO (AFP) — Iran had a hand in Sudan's decision to hand over Carlos to France, the semi-official Egyptian daily Al Ahram said Friday.

In a long editorial, editor Ibrahim Nafee said that "according to recent and very precise information, Iran forced Sudan (to accept) Carlos' extradition to France" as part of a deal struck between Tehran and Paris for the handover of two senior Iranian officials.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis support Rabin's policies — poll

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis gave strong approval to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in an opinion poll published on Friday. The Shiluv Institute poll for the daily Maariv showed 66 per cent of 509 Israelis boosted about their leader. The poll suggested Mr. Rabin, boosted by popular peace moves with Jordan, emerged largely unharmed by his government's surprise announcement this week it would tax share profits on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. Sixty-one per cent said Mr. Rabin's credibility was unaffected by his sudden reversal on the tax, Mr. Rabin, 72, said. "When speaking of a prime minister and finance minister don't expect them to tell the whole truth when speaking of a devaluation or new tax policy."

Lawyer in Kurdish deputies' case released

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Hasip Kaplan, one of the attorneys representing six Kurdish deputies charged with separatism, has been released after 24 hours, sources close to the case said. Mr. Kaplan was arrested at the seaside resort town Tuesday along with three friends, only one of whom, Sengul Senol, of Germany, was also set free Wednesday. The other two, Ali Haydar Senol and Sait Catalbas are still being detained, the former for undeclared reasons, the latter because of an arrest warrant issued against him, the sources said. The four men were arrested while dining in a restaurant. Authorities have not disclosed the reasons for Mr. Kaplan's arrest. The six Kurdish deputies are charged with separatism and endangering state security and face the death penalty if convicted.

Prince Philip to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Prince Philip will become the first member of the British royal family to visit Israel soon when he accepts an award for his mother from Israel's national Holocaust memorial. His mother, Princess Alice of Greece, is buried in Jerusalem. A spokeswoman for Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, said on Friday the prince accepted an invitation to receive the Righteous Gentile Award for Princess Alice, who protected a Jewish family from Nazis in her Athens palace during World War II. "Yad Vashem sent him the invitation and he said he's going to come," spokeswoman Billie Laniado said. She said he would arrive before the end of the year though no date was announced.

Sweeping anti-smoking measures in Bahrain

MANAMA (AP) — An emiri decree has imposed sweeping anti-smoking measures, which ban Bahrainis from growing tobacco plants or setting up cigarette factories. Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa's decree also threatens to prosecute anyone who sells tobacco to youths under 18 years old. The decree banned smoking in closed public places and transport and in industrial institutions. Smoking areas can be designated. The Ministry of Health was instructed to form a committee to set a ceiling for the level of nicotine in cigarettes allowed into the country and to organize anti-smoking campaigns.

Egypt bans teachers from going to Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Authorities at Cairo airport have been instructed to prevent Egyptian teachers from flying to Sudan following reports of maltreatment of Egyptians there, airport security sources said. The measure followed reports that Sudanese officials had seized houses belonging to Egyptians in Khartoum and evicted 33 Egyptian teachers from their residences. The semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said on Wednesday Sudanese officials seized the Egyptian headquarters of the Egyptian community and the private residences of Egyptian teachers in Khartoum. Al Ahram also said an unlicensed truck tried to knock down an Egyptian diplomat in the Sudanese capital but he escaped unhurt. The reported incidents were the latest in a series of events that have taken relations between the two countries to their lowest in years. Sudan said on Monday it had protested to the Egyptian foreign ministry over attacks against two of its diplomats in Cairo.

Suspect in 'Satanic Verses' arson surrenders

ANKARA (AFP) — A fugitive from justice implicated in the 1993 Sivas hotel massacre that targeted a Turkish publisher of extracts from the Satanic Verses has surrendered to Turkish authorities, the Anatolia agency said Friday. Yunus Karatas, for whom Turkish authorities issued an arrest warrant over the massacre, turned himself over to judicial authorities in Sivas, eastern Turkey, the agency said. Mr. Karatas is to be handed over to the Ankara state criminal court for questioning over his alleged role in the July 2 massacre, in which 37 intellectuals and artists perished after Islamic fundamentalists set fire to the Madimak hotel in which they were staying during a cultural festival. The attack followed the publication by one of the hotel guests of translated extracts from the Satanic Verses, whose British author Salman Rushdie has since 1989 been under a death sentence imposed by Iran's fundamentalist regime for the book's alleged blasphemy against Islam. Aziz Nesin, who was not a victim of the attack, had published the extracts in his newspaper Aydinlik as a challenge to a 1989 government ban on the Ankara court's jurisdiction in October 1993 before being adjourned. It resumes on Aug. 31, when pleas are due to be taken.

New SPLA rift as commanders resign

NAIROBI (AFP) — A major rift has rocked a rebel faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), following the resignation of its four key commanders, it was reported last week.

In a statement released here on Wednesday, four key commanders in Riek Machar's SPLA-United faction said they had decided to break away from the movement after finding they would not serve any useful purpose by remaining in it.

The four, who held key portfolios in the movement, are external affairs secretary Commander Dhol Acuil Aleu, civil administration secretary Amon Wan Tok, transport and communications secretary Chol Den Alak and education and religious affairs secretary Isaac Cuir Riak, currently a lecturer at the Nairobi campus of the U.S. International University.

The resignation of the four, all Dinkas, points to a major tribal rift in the faction, which could result in new tribal realignment in the SPLA movement, which took up arms in 1983 in a bid to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arabised Muslim north.

The organisation broke up in 1991 into two — the mainstream faction led by SPLA head John Garang and SPLA-United under Riek Machar, which groups most SPLA commanders who had disagreed with Colonel Garang's leadership.

Mr. Machar was later joined by SPLA founder Kerubino Kwanyin Bol after his release from detention in Col. Garang's jails in southern Sudan, and Col. Garang's chief of staff William Nyuon Bany, a Nuer.

But a major crack appeared in SPLA-United recently, leading to the dismissal, resignation and alleged arrests of several key commanders, signalling the possible collapse of the movement.

On July 4, the faction's internal affairs and public security secretary Arok Thon Arok, the highest Dinka in the movement and the de facto number four after SPLA-United leaders Riek, Kerubino and Nyuon Bany, quit, accusing Mr. Riek of dictatorship and poor leadership.

Mr. Arok was particularly upset by an earlier dismissal of the faction's foreign affairs secretary, Lam Akol, and alleged arrests in southern Sudan by Mr. Riek of nine of his commanders, including

information secretary John Luk Jok.

The dismissal of Lam Akol, a Shiuk, and his consequent return to southern Sudan to lead fighters, has recently been causing ripples in the war front around the northern town of Nasir, as the new group is said to be gaining much ground in areas formerly under Mr. Riek's control.

The Khartoum government has taken advantage of the splits in the SPLA movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the last 11 years.

It was not clear what the four intended to do, but informed sources in the rebel movement believe that they were bound to join forces with other commanders who had recently either resigned or had been dismissed from the movement.

Speculations here that high-ranking Dinkas in both factions had met in the Kenyan capital last weekend point to new realignments which could be forged to try to oust both Col. Garang and Mr. Machar, who had recently been moving closer to each other in the face of ongoing talks with the Khartoum government in an effort to end the bloody civil war.

The first, he told a news conference, was the return from New York of the Garland Sarcophagus last April. The 4.2 tonne sarcophagus, ornamented with Medusa wearing garlands, had been smuggled in 1987.

The Marsyas sculpture in white marble, depicts Marsyas the shepherd-hanging by his hands, awaiting to be skinned alive by a crouching figure sharpening a knife.

Greek mythology has it that Marsyas, a man, who dared to win a contest against the immortal Greek God Apollo, son of Zeus, around the wrath of the Olympian gods for having demonstrated better skill in playing his flute than did Apollo with his lyre.

And he paid for it with his life.

The 120-centimetre sculpture was illegally excavated in 1987 near Manisa, western Turkey, 560 kilometres southwest of Istanbul, and smuggled to the United States, Mr. Savaskan said.

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Two American collectors, identified as Jonathan Rosen and Robert Hecht, were persuaded to return it to Turkey, he added.

The marble frieze of the curly-haired boy has illegally

excavated in 1984 near a site known as Aphrodisias in Greek mythology, around Aydin province in western Turkey, 730 kilometres southwest of Istanbul. It was smuggled to New York and returned after legal action with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cooperation, Mr. Savaskan said.

"Turkey is in contact with several countries for the repatriation of scores of smuggled treasures," the official said. He did not elaborate.

Last October, a 363-piece historical treasure, known as the Lydian horad, was returned after a six-year legal battle with New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Smuggled antiquities returned to Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — The sculpture of a man about to be skinned alive and a marble frieze immortalising a curly-haired Roman boy have been presented after their return to Turkey.

The priceless Marsyas statue and frieze, dating from around the first century B.C., were smuggled to the United States and repatriated after legal battles and persuasion.

"It is the second victory for Turkey this year in the recovery of illegally excavated historical treasures smuggled to the United States," said Culture Minister Timurcin Savaskan.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Suez Dans L'Etoile

17:11 Fantomette

17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin

18:30 News in French

18:45 Ushualu

19:00 News in Hebrew

19:30 Dimension

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Movies, Games, and Videos

21:30 The Campbells

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr

05:57 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:39 Dhuhr

16:15 Asr

19:21 Maghrib

20:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedda, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624325

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures becoming around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 20 / 33

Amman 27 / 40

Aqaba 21 / 37

Deserts 18 / 37

Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 627195

Dr. Bassam Karadabih 759200

Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916

Dr. Sulman Al Daboubi 716751

First pharmacy 661912

Fordown pharmacy 778336

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Nairolah pharmacy 623672

Yacoub pharmacy 636730

Samirani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam 636381

Alquds pharmacy 985417

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985350

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Railway 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 713121

Highway Police 943402

Traffic Police 996390

Public Security Department 630321

Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Overseas Calls 697467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Directorate assistance 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdali Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre 813813/22

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 636140

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsan 664174

Shamsan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musaber Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 66612/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646

Indian, Al-Mubajres 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711125

Army, Marka 89161/15

Queen Alia Hospital 6024050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarga National Hospital 669131

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)90660

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)986732

Ba Al Nafes Hospital (09)99099

Princess Basmah Hospital (02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital (02)72775

Ba Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

ABABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Flight Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1)

05:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

06:15 Dhahran (RJ)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)

10:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)

10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 New Delhi (RJ)

11:00 Beirut (RJ)

11:00 Colombo (RJ)

16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:35 London (RJ)

17:



ATTENDING A SPECIAL GRADUATION: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday attend the graduation ceremony of several Royal Guard personnel who received training in personal protection skills. Among the graduates was Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein who received from the King a golden medal for excelling in her training course. King Hussein also presented awards

to other excellent officers. Their Royal Highnesses Princes Ali, Hamzah and Hashem, as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior Royal Court and government officials, accompanied Their Majesties during the ceremony. They also watched exercises in Judo and other martial arts.

New Fuheis festival committee is service oriented — governor

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Balqa' Governor Eld Qatameh said that the higher committee recently formed to oversee future Fuheis Festivals would not interfere in the work of the original Fuheis committee, rather it would be considered a service committee whose job would be to offer health services, general security and site selection, as well as facilitating public entry.

In a press meeting held Wednesday night at the Roman Church in Fuheis, Mr. Qatameh confirmed that the new committee he formed to manage the Fuheis Festival and which included representatives of the Ministries of Finance and Culture, the Civil Defence Department, the mayor of Fuheis and The Fuheis Youth Club (as committee) in addition to other official bodies, would only help the coming Fuheis festival become international.

Festival founders and organisers objected to the governor's decision to form such a committee because they felt

slighted at not being given what they considered as a substantial role in the structure of the committee.

"The patronage of Prince Hassan to the Fifth Fuheis Festival made it more valuable," said Mr. Qatameh. "So, I have to be involved in order to know what is going on. For instance, at the opening ceremony, Prince Hassan asked me about the absence of children. I did not know what to answer, simply because I had no idea about any affair related to the festival. In fact, I was invited as a guest. But it is possible to answer the Prince saying I do not know? I am the governor and I should know about any activity that occurs here," said Mr. Qatameh.

During the last four years, the Fuheis Festival was attended primarily by Fuheis residents and few outsiders. But the fifth festival witnessed the attendance of a huge number of visitors from Amman, Karak, Zarqa, Ramtha as well as Fuheis.

In addition, the main theatre sat thousands of spectators this year at most of the

festivities, and Lebanese singer Najwa Karam topped them all with an audience of nearly 15,000.

"As authoritative officials, we will not interfere in the festival's programmes," said the governor. "We have nothing to do with the artists to be invited. We will concentrate on service facilities."

The Ministry of Finance will treat Fuheis Festival just like Jerash Festival in exempting it from taxes, said Mr. Qatameh. He declined to give further details on the financial affairs of the festival.

But the questions still waiting for an answer are: Where will the final income go? Who will bear the loss if there is any? Will the Fuheis Youth Club benefit from that income?

"For the four previous years, no one thought of supporting the Fuheis Festival," said Ziad Sweis, a festival founder, told the Jordan Times.

"It was financed by the club members only. During the first three years, the expenses were far greater than revenues. As a result every

member of the club used to prepare himself to pay from his own money to cover the festival's expenses. But, at the same time we were happy to present our city's culture."

As for children, "any one who attended a 250-fils ticket-price show would be offered a 250-fils orange juice. So, we made no profit. Our aim was to make people happy, to offer them joy, and knowledge of culture," Mr. Sweis said.

This attitude of the Fuheis Club encouraged volunteer work. Many artists followed by giving free performances. "Several singers refused to take any money for their participation, like Iraqi singer Mahmoud Anwer," said Mr. Sweis.

The people of Fuheis still await the final decision of the government regarding the role of the Fuheis Club in light of the formation of the new higher committee. The Fuheis Club committee will hold a meeting tonight to decide what action to take depending on the government's action.

King asks government to help pay PLA salaries

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein instructed the government to make available funds to pay the salaries of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan and to provide their training needs so that they can carry out their responsibilities.

In a message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday King Hussein said that he had received an appeal from Brigadier General Mohammad Abdul Rahim Qudsi, commander of the Bader Forces of the PLA, explaining the difficult position.

"The PLA commander has appealed for our help in a letter dated August 17 in which he expressed the troops' pride in being trained in the Kingdom by the Jordanian Armed Forces, but they are now facing a critical situation after being cut off from financial resources and their morale is being endangered," said King Hussein in his message to Dr. Majali. "In response to this appeal and in

honouring Jordan's commitment to and close ties with the comrades in arms and also in reaffirmation of the brotherly relations between the Arab forces of Jordan and the PLA I am instructing you to take the necessary measures to provide for the PLA force's financial and military training needs until the situation returns to normal," said King Hussein.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources told the Jordan Times Friday that most of the organisation's departments operating in Jordan, as well as the PLA forces, have not received their salaries for the past six to 12 months and are facing a critical situation.

Premier, RJ officials discuss airline's role in era of peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has urged Royal Jordanian (RJ) to prepare itself for more serious work in the coming stage which, he said, would entail major challenges for Jordan in the transport and tourism sectors.

Addressing a meeting at RJ headquarters attended by newly appointed RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi, the prime minister said that in an era of peace the transport and tourism sectors can expect double the volume of demand on their services, and RJ is called on to be ready.

Dr. Majali said that RJ should encourage the private sector to contribute to the Kingdom's endeavours in air transport and tourism. He also pledged that the

government would respond favourably to RJ's requests for amendments to its laws in a manner that would grant the airline more flexibility and overcome obstacles impeding its performance.

During the meeting, a general review of RJ's operations during the first two weeks of August showed that the national carrier achieved successful performance on its North American and North African routes, but its Arabian Gulf and the Indian sub-continent routes showed slightly under performance.

An RJ statement said later that Mr. Dahabi has requested that all RJ departments reduce their expenditures wherever possible, adding that RJ was facing stiff competition in the Middle East region. Mr. Dahabi reported that studies are

under way to modernise the airline's fleet of TriStars, a project that could be completed by the end of the decade.

Dr. Majali was briefed by Captain Seif Taber, RJ vice president for operations, on the progress in talks with Israeli officials about RJ flights through Israeli airspace.

Captain Taber presented points of agreement and disagreement between the two sides, noting that the air corridor offered by Israel to RJ would save the airline some \$2.38 million annually.

Adding that the Israeli air corridor would enable RJ planes to fly over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Captain Taber said disagreements centred on the altitudes of RJ's planes over Israeli territory.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and new President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (right)

Jordan holds good promise for foreign investment, but has to move quickly — international experts

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan holds out good promises for foreign investment, but the Kingdom has to move quickly in the international scene to attract investors through detailed information on what it can offer and liberalisation and privatisation, two international experts say.

Angus Blair and Karen Bradley, analysts with London-based Baring Securities Limited who recently released a thorough study of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), also said that Jordan was not simply facing a regional race for international investment since many other countries outside the Middle East are also offering good opportunities.

As such, said Mr. Blair, Jordan has to exert extra efforts to make itself felt in the international market. "Jordan has to make up its mind whether it wants foreign investment, and if so it has to adopt measures that would make it attractive to investors," he said, adding that unless the Kingdom moved quickly it risks being left behind.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Blair described some of the procedures that foreign investors face in Jordan as cumbersome and suggested

that they be simplified.

Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley, who are visiting Jordan to release the Baring report on the AFM which they co-authored, cited Morocco as an example of how countries could open their door wide for foreign investments, particularly in stock markets.

Morocco removed all restrictions on foreign participation in its stock market. As a result, the bulk of \$200 million in foreign capital that came to North Africa and the Middle East in 1993 went to Morocco, Mr. Blair said. But that amount compares with a total of \$52 billion in international capital that moved out from the industrialised countries into emerging markets, he said.

In one year, market capitalisation in Morocco jumped from \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion, the analysts said. Jordan has to explain in clear terms to foreign investors the opportunities available in the Kingdom, simplify procedures, liberalise the economy and adopt a clear position on privatisation, they said.

While these requirements are universal, "peace is an extra dimension" that is bringing and will bring additional focus on Jordan and other countries in the region for potential investment, Mr. Blair said.

Asked how regulatory

measures of foreign capital participation in strategic industries affect investor mentality, Mr. Blair said the limitations in place in Jordan were not unique and were applicable in many countries, and investors understand the motivations behind it.

Both Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley cited Beirut and the fast moves adopted by the Lebanese to regain their pre-crisis role as the economic centre of the Middle East as another factor that should warrant a faster pace in Jordan's moves to project itself favourably in the international investment market.

Mr. Blair cited telecommunications as an area of key interest for foreign investors.

Retinded that Jordan's state-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is a key source of revenues to the government and asked how the authorities could be expected to privatise it, Mr. Blair pointed out that in 10 years time technology would have advanced so far ahead that it would take massive investment in the sector.

The government may not be in a position to do that at that point in time, and by then it might be a little too late to start the process of privatisation to attract foreign capital if Jordan was to catch up with the technolo-

gical advances in the field of fibre-optics, microwave links and satellite communications, he said.

The report prepared by Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley gives high marks to the AFM, describing it as relatively sophisticated and well-managed despite its small size.

It says that the AFM is relatively cheap by current emerging market values and would benefit from a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The report said that shares at the AFM were trading at around 17 times 1994 earnings, and at about 13 times if distorting factors are excluded.

The report came against a dramatic recovery in the AFM after more than four months of stagnation during which prices saw a decline of up to 25 per cent since the beginning of the year. The drop was attributed mainly to uncertainties of economic benefits for Jordan from the Middle East peace process and movement of capital from the trading floor to fresh issues in the market.

Jordanian stocks are seen to be on the road to recovery with the dramatic progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations in the peace process. Prices shot up by nearly eight per cent in the last three weeks, and latest indications are

that the upward trend is likely to continue.

Baring Securities Limited, whose advice is taken seriously by international investors, also has a department for portfolio management.

The firm's report on Jordan notes that Arab-Israeli peace initiatives are already stimulating local demand, and increasing foreign investment along with good economic fundamentals should drive the market ahead.

Further liberalisation of the financial infrastructure is planned and the government is committed to encouraging foreign investment, the analysts point out, adding that they expect the Jordanian economy to register a six per cent growth in 1994 and seven per cent in 1997.

At the end of 1993, the total capitalisation of the companies listed in the organised share market stood at around JD 3.4 billion at the end of June 1994 compared with JD 2.27 billion at the end of 1992 and JD 1.69 billion at the end of 1991.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 1.66 billion, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.42 billion, the services sector with JD 670 million and the insurance sector with JD 79.41 million, according

to a summary released by the AFM on market performance during the first half of this year.

The Baring report notes that the market capitalisation in Jordan was on the lower end of the emerging markets scale, but notes that the AFM is one of the highest regulated markets in the Arab World.

However, market capitalisation compared to the size of the economy is high, indicating a well-established stock market and a relatively high level of local trading, the report said.

Turnover during 1993 constituted 28 per cent of market capitalisation, around the same level as for Venezuela and Indonesia, the report noted.

The analysts also noted that foreign investors were allowed to hold up to 49 per cent of a Jordanian company and the informal rule that a single foreign investor could not hold more than three per cent of the share capital of a company.

The Baring analysts also gave a list of shares that they recommend at the AFM; these included those of the Arab Aluminium Company, the Arab Bank Limited, Dar Al Dawa, the Industrial Development Bank and the Jordan Cement Factories Companies and the Housing Bank.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Petra returns to Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said it reopened its Beirut office Thursday, after a break of more than six years. Petra Director General Abdullah Etoum, who opened the office, said the step was taken as life in the Lebanese capital has returned to normal.

JD 100,000 allocated to needy orphans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf has allocated JD 100,000 for distribution this month to needy orphans in the various governorates, according to ministry Secretary General Ahmad Helayel. Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times Friday that the sum has been allocated in response to instructions by His Majesty King Hussein that the donation be made to mark the Kingdom's observation today of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. He said the donation was in keeping with a tradition started by the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The announcement was made by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi in a keynote address delivered at a major ceremony organised at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture Thursday on the eve of the holy anniversary. At the ceremony, which was organised by the ministry and attended by ministers, senior officials and key public and religious figures, King Hussein presented royal medals to several individuals who have built mosques in Jordan and donated the largest sums of money to the Zakat fund.

Temperatures to drop

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Meteorology expects temperatures to subside to their annual average today ending the heat wave that has affected the eastern Mediterranean region for nearly a week. A department statement said that the highest temperatures recorded during the heat spell were 44°C in the eastern desert, 43°C in the Jordan Valley and 40°C in Amman.

CDD responds to 555 emergencies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) said that it responded to 555 emergencies in last week in which 12 persons were killed. CDD Public Relations Director Abdul Raouf Ma'aytah said that the emergencies included 73 fires.

JEA, RSS teams to head for Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will leave Amman Sunday for Germany on a week-long visit to discuss prospects for implementing the wind power project to Jordan. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Zoubi who is to lead the team said that the project, which is to be financed by the German Ministry of Technology and Scientific Research, is aimed at enabling the Kingdom to make use of alternative sources of energy.

Amman cultural meeting to start

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad, the Third Amman Cultural Meeting, "The Criticism Movement in Jordan," will be inaugurated at the conference auditorium of the Royal Cultural Centre Monday afternoon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting on copper exhibition by Mohammad Jundi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ "The Child's World Festival 1994" (containing all children needs) at the World Exhibition Center, University Road (Tel. 643844).
- ★ Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed By Artists" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamounki at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).

PLAY

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Long Liver the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 20:00.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Relations" by Dr. Sami Abdullah and Dr. Munir Hamarneh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 18:30.

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shaban at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweideh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utthelma (Tel. 626932).

New Sri Lanka premier sworn in

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka installed Chandrika Kumaratunga of the People's Alliance as its second woman prime minister Friday but the defeated United National Party kept control of the armed forces.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, a United National Party (UNP) nominee who faces a separate presidential poll in November, retained the defence portfolio when the 23-member cabinet was sworn in.

Prime Minister Kumaratunga, whose mother Srima Bandaranaike was the world's first woman prime minister, has vowed to end the 11-year-old civil war in which over 30,000 people have been killed.

The defence portfolio is crucial to how the government deals with the insurgency by guerrillas seeking a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

But political analysts said they believed Mr. Wijetunga, who can assign himself any

cabinet post, would not obstruct the People's Alliance (PA). The PA's Anura Kumaratunga, Mr. Bandaranaike's cousin, was sworn in as deputy defence minister.

Sri Lankans, who voted to end the UNP's 17-year reign at Tuesday's polls, began returning to work Friday and shops reopened after a 55-hour post-election curfew elapsed. But fears of violence meant few markets were open and fewer buses operating.

Ms. Kumaratunga wore a bright blue sari, the colour of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party which is the main component of the PA. She took the oath of office in a simple ceremony at the president's residence and was also sworn in as minister of finance and planning.

The 49-year-old Kumaratunga, who wants to talk to Tamil rebels to end their bloody campaign for independence, also took control of a new portfolio, ethnic affairs and national integra-

tion. Ms. Kumaratunga's 78-year-old mother, who served two terms in office in the 1960s and 1970s, was made minister without portfolio. The frail-looking Mrs. Bandaranaike was helped to her seat by her daughter.

Other key cabinet posts went to Dharmasiri Senanayake (information, tourism and aviation) and Professor G.L. Peiris (external trade, justice and constitutional affairs).

Kingsley Wickremaratne received the trade portfolio, Lakshman Kadirgamar took foreign affairs and veteran leftist Bernard Soysa became minister of science, technology and human resources development.

Mohammad Ashraff, whose Sri Lanka Muslim Congress won seven seats in the 225-seat parliament and has pledged support for the PA which won 105, was made Minister of Shipping and Ports and Rehabilitation.

Ms. Kumaratunga later

attended a religious ceremony at a Buddhist temple outside Colombo.

The national flag hung from street lamps as Sri Lankans, tired of the ethnic war, rested their hopes for peace on Ms. Kumaratunga, an untried and untested politician. A nightly curfew remains.

Ms. Kumaratunga, who met Tamil militants in the early 1980s along with her politician-husband Vijaya, says she is ready to go to the north to open talks with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

She has also pledged to wipe out bribery and corruption and enforce market reforms with a safety net for the poor.

But her party's biggest problem could be enacting constitutional reforms. The PA wants to scrap the executive presidency and revert to a Westminster-style government where parliament is supreme.



A Buddhist monk pours blessed water over the hands of New Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, leader of the People's Alliance (PA), during a Buddhist ritual performed after the swearing in of the new prime minister (AFP photo)

formed after the swearing in of the new prime minister (AFP photo)

New Zealander conducts own funeral

WELLINGTON (R) — A thrifty New Zealander conducted an unusual funeral Friday — his own. Wheelchair-bound Alan Kearns, 66, pre-recorded his own funeral service for 120 mourners with readings from the Bible and a selection of songs including his theme tune, Wheels. Mr. Kearns, who died of cancer Thursday in the South Island city of Christchurch, wrote his own death notice announcing he had "left this world for a better place, or if not, at least for a warmer climate." Mr. Kearns had planned to save on undertaker's fees by catching a taxi to his funeral, but was thwarted because hospital authorities did not want the body lying around waiting for a cab, a spokesman for undertakers Simplicity Funerals said.

Mongolia brands U.S.-Khan-hunter a profit-seeker

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia is upset over a deal, purportedly signed without official consent, allowing an amateur U.S. archaeologist to hunt the lost tomb of 13th century world conqueror Genghis Khan. The state-run newspaper Ardin Erkh confirmed that Chicago commodities broker Maury Kravitz signed a pact with a unit of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and stopped short of declaring the agreement invalid. But the newspaper denied Mr. Kravitz had an exclusive contract with the government, as he claimed in an interview with Reuters, and it belittled the world-bele Indiana Jones for using science to cloak a lust for profit.

All female Waiting For Godot scrapped

SYDNEY (R) — Theatre audiences waiting for the curtain to go up on an all-female production of Waiting For Godot may end up like the characters of the avant-garde play — unfulfilled and disappointed. A Sydney drama group's production of Irish writer Samuel Beckett's play was abandoned after English representatives of Beckett's estate revoked its production rights in protest against women playing the characters. "They have revoked the rights because it was Mr. Beckett's wish that none of the roles ever be played by women," said the production's director, David Jobling. Beckett, who died in 1989, did not want women playing the roles because they could not emotionally identify with having a bad prostate gland, a condition suffered by one of the tramps in the play, Jobling said. Godot is an enigmatic, never defined, being in the 1953 play for whom the all-male characters anxiously wait to deliver them from their bleak, alienating surroundings. Godot never turns up. Beckett's estate became concerned about the female production by Sydney's Wayside Theatre after hearing reports the group wanted to call their version "Ms Godot" Jobling said.

Female gangsters attacking Tokyo men

TOKYO (AFP) — Tokyo police have launched a hunt for young female gangsters who are terrorizing men through erotic encounters via so-called telephone sex clubs and then robbing them, the press reported Friday. A 38-year-old office worker told police Thursday that he had been robbed of 22,000 yen (\$220) and a cash card at a hotel in Tokyo's Shibuya district by two beautiful women he met through a telephone sex club, where men and women have intimate conversation by phone and then arrange dates. The two women, in their mid-twenties and wearing short black dresses, hit him on his head with a club and zapped him with a stun gun, the man reportedly told police. They took his clothes off, tied him up and took photographs of him, which made him think for a moment that the pair was just trying out a sadomasochistic play. But the women told him they would publicize the photos if he told police about the theft. On Thursday, on the heels of the Shibuya robbery Wednesday, another man was robbed of 120,000 yen (\$1,200) in cash at a hotel in Sumida, eastern Tokyo, by three girls "who looked like high-school students," police said.

Russia defends nuclear control; awaits Kohl envoy

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia denied Friday new Western assertions that it was the source of plutonium smuggled to the West, on the eve of a visit by a senior German official who will press Moscow to tighten controls over its nuclear stockpiles.

"Our position has not changed," a spokesman for the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry said in response to the assertion Thursday by European experts that a cache of plutonium 239 seized in Germany last week came from Russia.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, Bernd Schmidbauer, is to arrive Saturday to "find out how much the Russians know and how we can increase safeguards," German embassy spokesman Enno Barker told AFP.

"His goal is to ensure that we will not have any confusing phases in the future when we find nuclear material that we suspect being of Russian origin," Mr. Barker said.

Mr. Schmidbauer was to stay in Moscow until Monday, meeting with the chief of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK), Sergei Stepanov, and Atomic Energy Ministry officials.

Russian officials however dismissed the visit as unnecessary.

"There should be no worry because there is nothing to

worry about," FSK spokesman Vladimir Kamorovski said.

"Our service has registered no theft of loss" of uranium or plutonium from Russian nuclear facilities, he stated.

Meanwhile in Brussels Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed the suspected smuggling of nuclear material from Russia with his counterparts from Britain, France and Germany, U.S. diplomats there said.

The four ministers were in the Belgian capital for a memorial service for NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, who died Saturday of cancer.

On Thursday, the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) confirmed that six grammes of plutonium seized in May by German police came from a Russian nuclear complex.

Plutonium is a deadly radioactive metal used in making nuclear bombs and even small amounts are toxic enough to poison a city's water supply.

The announcement Thursday that Russian police had arrested three people in Kaliningrad who were attempting to sell a 60-kilogramme (132-pound) lead container of radioactive material was the latest in a spate similar discoveries.

The Russian Atomic Energy

Ministry said Friday that the container held radioactive geological equipment but not uranium or plutonium.

According to Ivan Blokov at Greenpeace's Moscow office, the radiation level on the outside of the container was "quite high," at 40 times greater than normal background levels.

Mr. Barker said the Kaliningrad bust added weight to German suspicions that the captured material in Germany might be of Russian origin.

"At least it makes it harder for Russian authorities to maintain that in Russia everything is fine," he said.

But Russian officials not only repeated that Russia was not responsible for what could be the world's most dangerous black market, but that attempts to label Russia as the source of the contraband were a plot.

"We are breaking into the international market and we are ready to sell our uranium and our nuclear fuel for the nuclear power stations. These accusations are designed to sink our prestige on the international markets," said Georgi Kaurav, spokesman at the Atomic Energy Ministry.

It is the West "which must prove the Russian origin of the plutonium and not us who must justify ourselves," he said.

Mr. Barker said the row

may simply be the result of bad communication and that the Russian government was now at least ready to discuss the possibility that its nuclear network was supplying the black market.

A senior U.S. official said that the plutonium seized in Germany over the past four months is not weapons grade and probably came from a research reactor, conflicting with European analysis of the material.

The official also said there is no evidence that a black market has developed for such nuclear material but said U.S. officials are concerned that it is showing up.

"(Though) the levels of risk of a very serious diversion are quite low, that does not mean it is not an issue of the highest priority for us," said the official, who briefed reporters on condition she not be identified.

"We cannot confirm that the material comes from Russia," she said. "We are quite certain, however, that it does not come from a nuclear weapon or a nuclear weapon-related activity."

"The material appears to be reactor material, particularly from a research reactor activity," she said.

She said the nuclear material in one of the seizures was too rich with plutonium-239 to be used to make a bomb and the others were too low.



A group of Cuban men launches a raft made from scrap material on the coast of Cofre near Habana, Cuba. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced that all Cubans would be detained on their arrival in the United States rather than released into the community as has been the policy under the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act (AFP photo)

Clinton moves to head off new foreign policy crisis over Cuban refugees

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration, hoping to head off a new international crisis, has reversed the 30-year-old U.S. policy of accepting all Cuban refugees.

But in announcing the change at an extraordinary late night news conference at the White House, Attorney General Janet Reno raised more questions than she answered.

Ms. Reno, who appeared before about half a dozen reporters and cameramen in a partly-lit press room, made a brief statement saying that the United States would detain Cuban refugees who arrived without visas. She declined to elaborate, turned on her heel and left.

"In an effort to deter more Cubans from risking their lives, effective immediately, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) will detain all individuals intercepted," Ms. Reno said.

"The detention of these people will continue pending a determination of how they should be processed by the INS," she added.

Ms. Reno did not say where or for how long the Cubans would be detained or whether those not deemed political refugees would be sent back to Cuba.

The sudden turnaround in U.S. policy is certain to have critics crying "flip-flop" since White House and State Department officials had said as recently as Thursday that the administration was not contemplating a change.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers played down a request from Florida Governor Lawton Chiles for emergency help in dealing with the latest influx of Cuban refugees, calling the situation "orderly."

She conceded the numbers had increased — 527 arrived by small boat and makeshift raft Thursday — but said most were being placed with relatives "in Florida, in New York, New Jersey and other places around the country."

Ms. Reno herself earlier insisted there was no crisis. "Don't be melodramatic," she told reporters. "What we're trying to do is work

with state and local officials, with the local community."

State Department sources could not confirm a policy change as recently as Thursday afternoon.

That policy, hammered out during the cold war, virtually allowed Cubans to enter the United States with no questions asked and without visas.

Cubans fleeing their country are eligible to apply for permanent residents status after living in the United States for one year. Those who arrive on rafts or are rescued by the Coast Guard undergo only a cursory interview by immigration officers and, within hours, are turned over to charity organisations or relatives.

The rationale for the policy was that Cubans were leaving a Communist regime and so deserved refuge. Mr. Castro attacked the practice as encouraging illegal emigration and human rights advocates criticised it as discriminatory since Haitians had no such advantage when they applied for political asylum in the United States.

Australian astronomers observe violent galaxy event

SYDNEY (R) — Australian astronomers said Friday they were observing the most violent event in the galaxy in the past 100 years and speculated the enormous energy source could be a black hole swallowing a star.

"Being conservative, I would say a large proportion of a star has gone into a black hole," Duncan Campbell-Wilson, astronomer with the University of Sydney, told Reuters.

"We just don't know at present. We haven't had time to reflect on everything."

A black hole is a star which has collapsed on itself, creating a gravitational force so strong light cannot escape.

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"We do not want to waste an opportunity. We do not want to be accused of being

extremists or radicals who refuse dialogue," he added.

Last week, Carlos Ximenes Belo, the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Timor, said in an open letter that Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975, should hold a referendum in the territory to decide its future.

Failing that, he proposed talks between the Indonesian government and "the political parties which once existed in East Timor" on how to give effective autonomy to the territory of 750,000 people.

Major Simbolon, a military spokesman in the East Timor capital Dili, reacted by saying "we are ready and willing to hold talks with anyone."

Mr. Ramos Horta said the military commander of the guerrilla forces in East Timor had specifically endorsed Ximenes Belo's proposal and would declare a unilateral ceasefire if this or any other peace initiative led to the start of a serious dialogue.

"Konis Santana gives his support to Dom Ximenes Be-

Timor rebels offer unilateral truce

LISBON (R) — Guerrillas fighting for the independence of East Timor said Friday they would declare a unilateral ceasefire if the Indonesian government was prepared to start serious talks with them.

Jose Ramos Horta, the Australia-based overseas representative of the armed resistance movement in East Timor, said he had been specifically authorised to make the offer by guerrilla leader Konis Santana.

Ramos Horta made the ceasefire proposal in an interview with Portugal's TSF Radio following a series of moves by the Roman Catholic Church and the Indonesian Armed Forces suggesting the start of a dialogue in the former Portuguese colony.

"The moment that Indonesia shows it is seriously ready for dialogue the resistance will declare a (unilateral) ceasefire," Ramos Horta said.

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"Konis Santana gives his support to Dom Ximenes Be-

lo's initiative, so long as there are safeguards which I have insisted on repeatedly," Mr. Ramos Horta said.

"The United Nations must be involved in one way or another so that Indonesia does not transform this process into just a bilateral dialogue between the resistance and the Indonesian army," he stressed.

The United Nations does not recognise Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, but for two years it has hosted exploratory talks between Indonesia and Portugal to seek an internationally acceptable solution for the territory.

These meetings between the foreign ministers of the two countries have created a less hostile climate between Jakarta and Lisbon but have made little other progress.

Mr. Ramos Horta said he was still not convinced that Indonesia really wanted a dialogue with opposition groups in East Timor after using the army for 19 years to crush all dissent.

coverage if that target is not achieved. The Dole bill attempts to make insurance more accessible but does not purport to cover everyone.

Mitchell needs 51 votes to pass his legislation. Not all the 56 Senate Democrats support his bill, and passage would be easier if he could work out a deal with moderate Republicans.

If conservative Republicans filibuster, using endless debate to stall action, Sen. Mitchell would need 60 votes to break it. There is no way he could accomplish that without the moderates.

Backers of the "mainstream" group, who were working on a final section of the plan before making it public, have said it will include subsidies to help low-income people and to help cover pregnant women and children. Details of what income levels would qualify have not been worked out.

more than the Republican alternative by minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

Although it falls short of universal coverage, "we think we'll add millions of people to the rolls of the insured," said Republican John Danforth of Missouri.

Whether that will satisfy Mr. Clinton and Democratic lawmakers who share his goal of universal coverage is uncertain. For instance, Minnesota Democrat Paul Wellstone, said "there is not much of a chance" he can back the mainstream approach if it leaves millions of Americans uninsured.

But Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, a long-time advocate of health reform, said, "this is encouraging. This is an indication we can do business with the group."

The Mitchell bill aims to cover 95 per cent of the population by the year 2000, and puts into motion backup measures that will expand

coverage if that target is not achieved. The Dole bill attempts to make insurance more accessible but does not purport to cover everyone.

Mitchell needs 51 votes to pass his legislation. Not all the 56 Senate Democrats support his bill, and passage would be easier if he could work out a deal with moderate Republicans.

If conservative Republicans filibuster, using endless debate to stall action, Sen. Mitchell would need 60 votes to break it. There is no way he could accomplish that without the moderates.

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Jordan Times

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Tourism at a profit

MINISTER OF Tourism Mohammad Adwan's admission Thursday that "we are behind the Israelis in tourism" is both courageous and encouraging. It represents the beginning, we hope, of the journey to rectify the problem and put the country on the right road to reaping the fruits of peace.

The reasons why Jordan is far behind many countries in the tourism industry are many. Chief among them is the absence of any tourism culture in this country as a whole and the government's complete control of touristic sites and outlays.

If we should only take Petra as an example, we could see how the authorities have mishandled that precious site and how on the home stretch to peace the private sector made strides to prepare the Petra region for the influx of tourists while the government kept itself way behind, in the back pack, as it were.

In the past year the private sector managed to make ready a complete five-star tourist village, Taybet Zaman, and started building half-a-dozen others. The government, meanwhile, did nothing to enlarge the roads leading to the ancient city, to provide decent forms of transportation through the Siq that leads to the ruins, to provide amenities or to install the necessary infrastructure for the anticipated influx of tourists.

The only move that the government made, and perhaps too hastily, was to raise by 400 per cent the fees to entering Petra, a step that is coming under increasingly heavy criticism from tour operators, potential visitors and concerned citizens.

What tourism needs, like all other service industries in the Kingdom, is total independence from the government and the treasury. Tourism, like telecommunications and television, will always be restrained by the fact that whatever income it brings goes to the treasury which only releases handouts to be spent on the sector. For this reason the Tourism Authority needs to be resurrected first and restructured as an independent and autonomous body that includes representatives of both the public and private sectors. The Ministry of Tourism should only act as a regulatory body and a distributor of tourism-generated funds.

The Tourism Authority should be entrusted to operate at a reasonable profit margin and should have a mandate to oversee all touristic activity at all sites. The authority should draw on foreign experience and foreign expertise at least in the initial years of operation.

What we need to realise first and foremost is that tourism is a far more sophisticated industry than all others because it caters for people's comfort, taste and leisure. And for that reason alone it should not be trusted to governments, because bureaucracies, by nature, cannot meet people's sophisticated needs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily called on the Ministry of Tourism to reconsider its decision of raising the fee for tourists visiting Petra to JD 20, up from JD 5 mistakenly quoting the old figure as JD 1. Tareq Masarweh said that JD 1 is little but JD 20 is too much to ask from a tourist visiting cultural and archaeological sites in the Kingdom. A tourist is not a millionaire and he or she could be students coming here from Europe or America and staying in modest hotels, noted the writer, saying that the Tourism Ministry is trying to earn for the country as much income from tourism as possible. The writer said that the ministry is not offering services to the tourists worth the JD 20. The writer said that many tourists have been complaining about the exorbitant fees they are forced to pay like staying in Palmyra hotel in Syria where they pay \$280 per night, and there is no need for us to hear similar complaints nor are we in need of scaring off the tourists whose financial resources are limited but their spending should benefit our national economy.

In the view of Taber Al Udwan peace with Israel means the end of Israeli aggression on the Arab Nation but one cannot expect from Israel to be much of benefit for Arab economy. Israel and the United States aim from this peace is to open Arab markets for Israeli goods in exchange for a pledge not to keep expanding the Jewish state at the expense of the Arab World, said the writer. If we want to have peace that can be sustainable, we the Arabs ought first to achieve peace among ourselves as Arab governments and peoples and we ought to open our markets to have a common market and common and strong economy, said the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

Preparing for the economic challenge

By Dr. Musa Keilani

IN LESS than two months' time, events have propelled Jordan into the centre-stage of Middle Eastern politics, inviting international focus on the Kingdom, what it stands for in political terms and what it can offer in terms of business opportunities.

Expectations are high that hundreds of millions of investments will be coming to the country, infrastructure services will be improved simultaneously and all of us could see a tangible rise in the standard of living and a tension-free life away from the preoccupation with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Projects worth billions of dollars have been drawn up with many avenues of possible financing, and international investors are taking varying degrees of interest in figuring out how far they should or could go in with involving themselves in Jordan.

Here is the major challenge facing ourselves. It is not enough that we have made the necessary political moves towards ending decades of conflict and clearing the way for a normal life and living for us; we have to work extra hard to prove it to the international community that our country offers the right climate and opportunities for investments, both direct and indirect.

Quite simply, we cannot afford to wait. With many other regional conflicts settled down in Asia and elsewhere, it is quite clear that there is an international race for international investments. Goodwill is not enough to convince international institutions to channel their funds. The country should have the right ingredients to offer to investors, including incentives, clear-cut rules and regulations and simplified procedures away from red tape and all that goes with cumbersome bureaucracy.

Such reminders are not new, and Jordan has indeed taken major steps to address the shortcomings in its

structure for foreign investments over the years, with amendments to the related legislation and setting up committees to improve the situation further.

But the situation today remains far from being satisfactory, as many international investors assert. Again, that does not mean that we have to start all over again and go through months if not years of laborious work on revising our laws and incentives. On the contrary, what the situation needs today is a series of finishing touches.

Those finishing touches start with moving away from scrutinising the internal scene with an internal perspective to an external perspective to assess what would an international investor see as an ideal climate for putting in money into projects in Jordan. We have no dearth of experts in this field. Indeed, those experts are part of the human wealth we have and are proud of.

The first thing any investor would like to know is whether conflicts threaten the environment for investments in any country and how sound the political and economic system is. Then the question comes whether funds channelled into a country could be retrieved as easily as they were pumped in and how easy or difficult it is to repatriate profits and the possible constraints in this context. Then comes an assessment of returns and short-, medium- and long-term prospects.

On the first count, the steps adopted by Jordan after decades of reaffirming its quest for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict do go a long way in reassuring investors. As to the political system, the democracy in Jordan offers the best answer although more steps are needed to consolidate the institutionalisation of democratic practices.

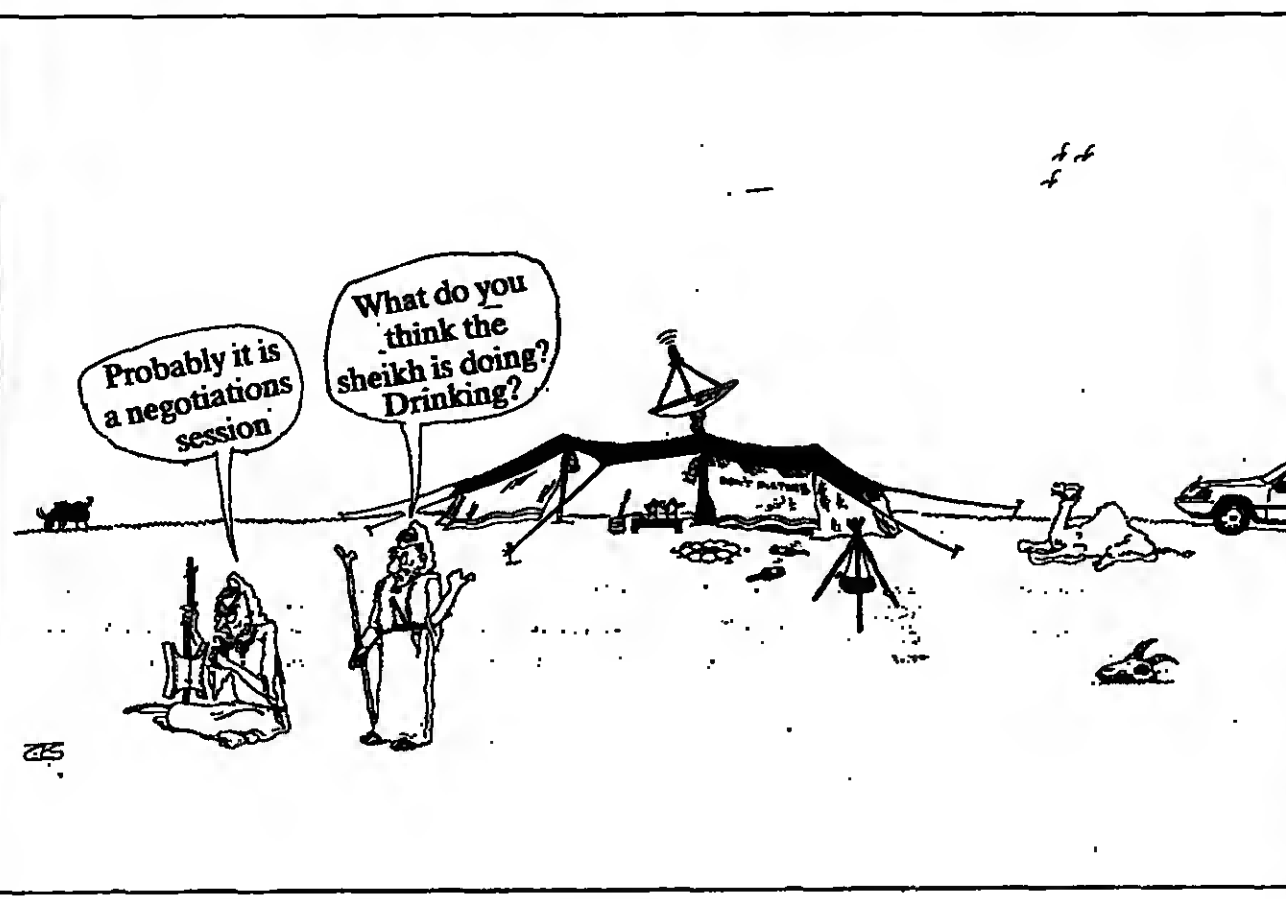
As far as our economic system goes, our moves in the past few years towards a free-market economy have to be further solidified with as little constraints as possible. In the

short-term, such moves may be seen as contradictory to our monetary situation, but the fruits of a free market economy are much more attractive and rewarding in the medium and long-term. Built-in features to protect our monetary situation are well understood and should not be discouraging to investors since they themselves understand those requirements, which will not be unique to Jordan or any other country with features similar to ours. But over and above everything else, we have to instill confidence at the international level that investors would be binding themselves into irreversible commitments in the Kingdom if they come in with capital.

Simultaneous to the executive and legislative moves, another key area of action is developing the culture of peace amongst us. Ironical as it is, history has proved that waging peace is more difficult than waging war. Our people, who are slowly waking up to the reality that they would be dealing with someone who has been an enemy for decades, have to be familiarised in close terms as to what a change in attitude would bring and that the returns would be worth the sacrifices that they, as a country and people, have made over the years.

We cannot afford to live in the past. Realities challenge us today. Those realities demand that we change ourselves with clear steps and drawing lines. Developing a culture of peace is not easy, but it has to be done if we are to live up successfully to what is expected of a small country with a large potential.

We have to work hard and fast. Jordan has to catch up with the rest of the world opening up to investment opportunities and if we lag behind, we stand to lose the race. That is the challenge facing those who are in charge of implementing the decisions of our leadership to open up our economy.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel is seeking an unfair deal

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE MAJORITY of the columnists in the Arabic press criticised Israel's stand vis-a-vis the peace process, accusing it of aiming to achieve its objectives without giving back Arab rights.

Peace is tempting for all when it aims at truly achieving stability and progress and end the state of poverty and unemployment but dreams are something and realities are something else, said Walid Abu Baker in Al-Dustour. It is clear, said the writer, that through its negotiations with the Arab parties Israel is aiming to reap the fruit of peace for itself without leaving the Arabs anything worth talking about. Clinging in particular the Palestine self rule, the writer said that Israel is clearly aiming to create an entity under its hegemony and each day that passes proves that this perception is right. He said there is no alternative for the Arab parties but to adopt a collective stand and deal with the Israeli party through a single policy.

The writer's views were reflected by his colleague Mohammad Kawash, who accused the Israelis of creating a large prison out of the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho instead of granting the Palestinians their freedom. In trying to perpetuate its presence in the occupied territories, Israel is facing rising resistance and increasing counter attacks by the local population. The wrath of the people of Palestine is bound to continue and escalate as long as the occupation remains in place, said the writer.

Ziyad Barakat, a columnist in Al-Dustour, directed his criticism at the Arab governments which, he said, deprived their people of meaningful development in the past four decades under the pretext of building up military power to help liberate the occupied Arab lands. One by one the Arab governments are succumbing to Israel's wishes at a time when they are economically weak and in disarray unable even to defend their own existence. The single Arab homeland is now divided into 20 states but all are weak and unable to stand up against a common foe, added the writer.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said it was not enough for the Arab parties to change their position and accept to have peace with Israel but it is incumbent on the Israeli side and Israeli people to make similar compromises. The Arab negotiators cannot demand from the Arab people to adopt new concepts at a time when the Israelis cling hard to the dreams of Zionism and of expanding at the expense of the Arab World, said the writer. He said that Israel demands that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) change its charter and cede to Israel the larger part of Palestinian homeland for nothing in return and is not introducing any changes to its laws concerning the treatment of Palestinian people living under occupation since 1948.

Samir Habashneh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily expressed the view that the coming stage makes it incumbent on Jordan to turn its whole attention to domestic issues and put its house in order. It is clear that we are facing a new phase in our history with the coming peace in the Middle East and it is therefore necessary for Jordan to act towards strengthening its own internal institutions, said the writer, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament. The Kingdom had suffered a

great deal as a result of the Gulf war, the siege on Aqaba and unemployment and poverty and the time has come for the government to take measures that would guarantee the right path for construction and development.

Fahd Feneq, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, criticised the Palestine National Authority for closing down two Arabic daily newspapers saying that the order for the closure was because the papers backed Jordan's views. The writer said that the closure was a political decision that should be countered with a similar measure from Jordan which, the writer said, should prevent spokesmen for the Palestine Liberation Organisation from publishing their articles in the Jordanian press.

Mohammad Sabeihi, writing in Al-Dustour, said corruption was still rampant in Jordan and there was dire need for creating a special office to hold public officials to account for their sources of wealth. The writer said that senior officials whose earnings do not exceed JD 1,000 a month live extravagantly and in a manner that creates suspicions. The writer said that there should be laws that require ministers and senior officials in the public administration to present a statement about their sources of income before assuming their posts so that the government could control corruption.

Abdullah Al Qaq, a columnist in Al-Dustour, said that the exorbitant fees for entering the archaeological sites imposed by the Ministry of Tourism were bound to scare away the visitors to the Kingdom. The tourism industry does not flourish by imposing heavy fees on visitors but through improved services and providing better qualified personnel for the business, said the writer. He called on the minister of tourism to reconsider his decision and ensure that the flow of tourists continues.

And while the Audit Bureau reports numerous violations in matters related to administrative and financial affairs we hear of no one imprisoned after being found responsible for the violation, added the writer.

Reflecting the same view, Taber Udwan, a columnist in Al-Dustour, said that His Majesty the King's message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to set up a special Royal Commission for reform should be taken seriously. It is under democracy that the country can deal with corruption and put matters in their right perspective, said the writer, who demanded that strict penalties should be imposed on the corrupt officials and the thieves. The writer said that the Kingdom has suffered a great deal as a result of indebtedness which largely came about due to corruption and abuse of public authority.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, lauded the minister of higher education who has just announced that 40 per cent of scholarships would benefit the needy and promising students. The writer said the majority of students in the Kingdom are poor and their families seek assistance from the charitable organisations.

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Russia: Quiet summer, stormy fall?

By Dave Carpenter
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Lulled by a hot summer, Russia is outwardly calm these days. Some say deceptively so.

The newly renovated White House masks all traces of last October's barrage by government tanks and gleams above the Moscow River as barges glide past. Opinion polls show "social tension" declining nationwide. Even nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is relaxing, cruising down the Volga.

Enjoying a balmy August and the most stability of the last three, tumultuous years, many Russians would like to relegate political upheaval to history.

People are tired of all the strife," Marina Kozareva, a bank employee, said between puffs on a cigarette on the embankment across from the White House. "I can't see another showdown happening again any time soon."

"The public has grown more mature, and no one will now support any such conflicts," agreed Mikhail Poluchin, a retired military officer sitting on a park bench nearby.

But the economy still in turmoil and crime and unemployment rising, some signs suggest trouble in the fall, Russia's traditional time for revolutions and political rumbles.

"One more month until the autumn of revolt and upheavals!" thundered a hopeful headline in Zavtra, the radical opposition newspaper hawked in metro stations and on street corners.

Government plans to allow the bankruptcies of thousands of large enterprises could anger millions of idled workers. Labour leaders are urging a nationwide general strike on Sept. 21.

Parliament, weaker and so far less insolent than its predecessor, is poised to finally adopt its own privatisation law and emergency economic measures when it reconvenes in October — a direct challenge to the government.

The industrial lobby and many legislators support a growing movement to oust Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin over what they see as overly rigid financial policies. Simultaneously, analysts say, continuing pressure to provide more money for the strapped military and agricultural industry risks sending inflation, now down to about 100 per cent annually, spiraling back out of control.

Expert observers are split over whether the current tranquility is misleading or merely confirms what President Boris Yeltsin recently called a new

political reality — perhaps even the beginnings of a "Russian economic miracle," as some Western analysts have suggested.

"We still have some difficult problems, certainly," said Mikhail Berger, a columnist for the newspaper Izvestia. "But the situation in general is out as bad as was predicted six months or a year ago. We see no evidence of hyperinflation, social conflict or mass unemployment."

The "near-normal" political situation, as Mr. Berger described it, is notable in itself in a country that in the last three years has endured both the August 1991 putsch and last year's bloody street battles between government troops and parliamentary forces holed up in the White House.

Mr. Yeltsin's bold on power appears safe until 1996 presidential elections. The opposition remains splintered, and a communist leader grumbled publicly this month about people's "passivity" in not turning out a force for rallies.

But Mikhail Leontyev, a columnist for the newspaper Segodnya, says the calm could be shattered soon by the anti-Chernomyrdin forces, whom he says are led by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

"Chernomyrdin's enemies have been putting growing pressure on Yeltsin's office" to dump him, he said. "It may not be so hard to have Yeltsin support the move, since the president doesn't like anyone to gain too much political weight."

"If Chernomyrdin is ousted it would definitely exacerbate the economic situation. So far, it has been enough for the government just to sit back and not make foolish decisions to continue financial stabilisation," Mr. Leontyev said.

One figure did stir Russians' passions and protests this lazy summer: Lyonya Golubkov, the fictional get-rich-quick star MMM commercials. The collapse of the giant investment fund burned millions of investors, and critics said it reflected the government's failed economic policies.

"Having suppressed the opposition, Yeltsin's government has only succeeded in driving social protest deep under the surface," said Georgy Shakhnazarov, a long-time adviser to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev who works for the Gorbachev Foundation.

"Now the opposition is half-strangled and of no political importance. But one day it may blow up in the government's face in the form of labour actions and rallies," he said.

Features

Dead Sea talks raise questions

(Continued from page 1)

The level of bilateral negotiations should not have been raised to the ministerial level and especially not on tourism, one senior negotiator told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Not only did Dr. Adwan's visit raise the level of negotiations on the bilateral level, it also redirected attention from the pressing "rights issues" to the "cooperation issues," not only in the eyes of the Israeli and international press but also on the negotiating table.

And it allowed the Israelis to register a point against the Jordanians because it highlighted an issue on which the Israeli side wanted to make the most progress because of its normalisation nature.

Damascus assails Barak comments

(Continued from page 1)

a general way, but not in details.

She said the talks focused on the security situation in the region as Israel moves toward peace with its Arab neighbours.

There are still dangers and security concerns in the Middle East and those need to be discussed as well with our American allies," she said.

Lebanon, reiterating its line at Middle East peace talks, said on Thursday only an Israeli pullout from all land it occupies in south and southeastern Lebanon would bring peace with the Jewish state.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, in a speech marking the opening of a sports city in the eastern Be-

"This only played into the Israeli hand," one Jordanian negotiator contended. "All the attention became directed at the visit by the first cabinet minister to Israel rather than the core, yet still pending, negotiations on the common agenda between Israel and Jordan."

As the Israeli side chose the day after the end of these talks to announce their series of "achievements" on the Palestinian level, it was also evident that the "Jordan month" was over and the Israelis had been obviously delaying progress on the Jordanian track because it was the turn of the Palestinian one.

"This is the Israeli strategy in negotiations," one senior official said. "They divide the cake into pieces and then they start biting from each of the pieces separately."

Barak comments

kaa Valley, also said it was the right of all Lebanese to resist the Israeli occupiers of their land.

"Lebanon's stand will not change no matter how hard the pressures get or vary," Mr. Hariri said. "An Israeli pullout from South Lebanon and the (western) Bekaa Valley is the only course to achieve peace on the border..."

"We will not allow anyone to let these (peace) talks come at the expense of the resistance."

President Elias Hrawi said on Tuesday Beirut had rejected a U.S. proposal that it curb groups waging guerrilla war on Israeli forces in the south as a precondition for an Israeli pullout — saying the Jewish state should withdraw first.

Peres: Handover to begin

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians' interest to fight terrorism. It's not possible to develop Gaza if terrorism abounds and disrupts the lives of its inhabitants."

He said the measures adopted by the Palestinian self-rule authority would be "judged by its results."

Asked when the Palestine National Council, a parliament-in-exile, would meet to amend the PLO charter, Mr. Arafat complained that its members were not allowed in to Gaza.

But Mr. Peres announced: "I told the chairman we shall not object to having the PNC meet in Gaza and invite all its members."

Mr. Arafat acknowledged the invitation and said he would propose the amendment it would be adopted. "I do not have the right to decide... this is the business of the PNC members."

The two men, side by side with Mr. Gidal, looked serious but brightened up when they spoke of the Oslo anniversary and the start of the transfer of civilian powers in the West Bank.

"For the first time in history, it will be the Palestinians who will be responsible for their own children, their own education," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said after Wednesday's talks with the PLO in Alexandria that overall agreement on handing over all five spheres — tour-

ism, taxation, social affairs, health and education — would be reached by next week.

The Norwegian foreign minister said he would push for the quick channelling of funds to the self-rule authority to show the Palestinians that "peace pays."

Norway has promised \$150 million (US\$21 million) to improve water supplies and electricity in Gaza, and about \$2 million to upgrade the police force. It paid another \$500,000 in cash to cover police salaries.

A senior Hamas official, Sheikh Ismael Haniyeh, condemned the visits of Mr. Peres and Mr. Gidal, which took place under heavy security, as amounting to sacrilege.

"They (the self-rule authority) allow Peres and another foreigner to desecrate our soil by setting foot on the land of Gaza which is heavy with the blood of the martyrs of the intifada," he said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Shaath, meanwhile, said that safe passages were now expected to open on Sunday between the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, running across southern Israel.

On the same day, Palestinian policemen would take up their posts at the border crossings with Egypt and Jordan to share control with the Israelis, he told AFP.

They would need a week or two to be fully operational.

Israel frees 247 detainees

(Continued from page 1)

ple swarmed the buses carrying the ex-prisoners, shaking hands with the men and handing them posters of Mr. Arafat and Palestinian flags.

The prisoners waved victory signs at the crowd.

"All the words cannot describe how I feel, especially because I am standing on Palestinian land in Jericho," said released prisoner Adil Sharabati, 34.

Mr. Sharabati, who served six years of his ten-year sentence for being active in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, urged Mr. Arafat to get all Palestinian prisoners released.

Ibrahim Yousuf Sughaya, 26, who served five years of his ten-year sentence for trying to kill a suspected informer, complained that he was not free to return to his home in Hebron.

But, he added that since Mr. Arafat's rule was young, it deserves support.

An army statement said none of those released had "blood on their hands," meaning none had been involved in violent attacks against Israel.

"They would have been released a long time ago, but the Palestinian authority refused to absorb them in

Jericho, so they remained in the prisons," Rabin's office said.

Those convicted of killing fellow Palestinians — usually suspected informants — have to serve out their terms in Jericho under the terms of the self-rule plan.

Palestinians have objected to that interpretation, saying they thought it applied only to those convicted of criminal acts and that the town of (JERICO) cannot hold all the prisoners.

Sueh Erakat, the Palestinian minister in charge of municipal affairs, said there was no alternative.

"Jericho actually cannot absorb such numbers at the same time. Nevertheless we don't want the men to stay in jail," said Dr. Erakat, a Jericho resident.

Israel and the PLO are currently negotiating the extension of civilian aspects of autonomy throughout the West Bank.

There have been reports that in the talks Israel has offered to release all remaining prisoners in exchange for general amnesty for the thousands of Palestinians who collaborated with the Israeli occupation. But Israeli officials denied the reports.

The superhuman traffic police

By John Dales

A FEW weeks ago, following the tragic accident near Irbid which killed more than 30 people, I wrote an article for the Jordan Times (July 13) about road safety in Jordan. At around the same time, Ahmad Majdoub, in his "View from Academia", wrote two articles concerning Jordan's traffic police and the role they have in road safety and in traffic management generally. In "The traffic situation: What police can and cannot do" (Jordan Times May 26-27), Dr. Majdoub made a couple of police suggestions, but in "Traffic situation — the need for police action" (Jordan Times July 7), he seemed to have run out of patience and concluded by saying, "we have been beating around the bush long enough regarding the traffic situation". Although it might seem rather demanding on his part to expect major change in the five weeks between his articles, I'm sure we can all share in his frustration.

In essence, this frustration is based on the fact that although we are familiar with the presence of traffic police on the roads they don't seem to be solving the problems. This is highlighted by the fact that all of us are routinely the victims (and also guilty) of traffic offences that go unpunished, and seemingly

unnoticed, by a policeman standing nearby. There are two main reasons why this is the case. Firstly, policing traffic offences is a difficult task; secondly, all of us (including the police) have become so used to accepting offences that should in fact be unacceptable that these offences have become part of the traffic culture.

When the police do pull over motorists, it is most commonly for speeding or to check either the physical state of the vehicle or the driver's licence and other documentation. These activities are important, but they are all characterised by their simplicity: lie in wait, point the speed gun, check the reading, and flag down if necessary; see a defect and stop the vehicle, or stop the vehicle and look for defects; pull over a motorist and examine his or her papers.

It is much more difficult, however, to discern a violation of traffic law that involves inconsiderate or dangerous driving, and harder yet to do anything about it if, for instance, it takes place in the middle of a busy junction. Consider the following examples. One motorist pulls out in front of another; was the resulting screech of tyres the fault of the first driver not looking before he pulled out, or of the second driver going too fast, or of both? On a dual carriageway, a car is weaving from lane to

lane, undertaking and overtaking without breaking the speed limit and without seriously affecting any other vehicle; does that constitute dangerous driving? A little child is standing on its parent's lap in the front passenger seat with its head right up against the windscreen; is this the policeman's responsibility or the parent's? A wedding cavalcade is driving along with people hanging out of car windows, blaring their horns, blocking a major road, confusing other drivers; is this just fun or is it a menace?

These and similar situations require split-second judgement from a policeman who, in addition, has to weigh up the pros and cons of giving chase to the offender and then risking being ignored, told to mind his own business or called a kill-joy. As a result, those nagging acts of bad and thoughtless driving which are the constant bane of Jordanian driving life are those which most often go unpunished.

The fact that they are seldom punished, of course, means that they are more commonly practised and that, as I have indicated, they have become part of the driving culture. That is to say, if you or I were stopped and fined for pulling out in front of another vehicle instead of waiting at a stop sign we would be absolutely shocked. So

what if there was a screen of tyres, a bit of swearing and a lot of hooting? There was no crash and no-one was hurt. It happens all the time. "What's the problem, officer?"

What indeed? Like the criminal who thinks that the only real crime is getting caught, we are in danger of assuming that it can't be bad driving if it doesn't cause a crash. No accident: no problem. It's part of a culture which we either readily or reluctantly accept and we find ourselves in a vicious circle where poor enforcement leads to less respect for traffic law and hence still less enforcement.

Is there a way of this vicious circle? Well, when two problems feed upon each other, the solution of one can break the cycle. I wouldn't recommend anyone to tackle Jordan's driving culture head-on, but even if someone could and did, I wouldn't care to wait for any traffic and road safety benefits to trickle through. On the other hand, effective change can, and indeed must, take place concerning the activities of the traffic police.

That said, there is only one way in which the traffic police can change the status quo, or indeed have the right to do so. And that is by being different: By refusing to accept the culture; by not practising it themselves; and by knowing what the

alternative is. In this, they must truly become supermen. This term is commonly used to describe those with miraculous powers but, more accurately, to be superhuman means to exceed normal human ability or experience. This is exactly what the traffic police must do. Unlike we ordinary mortals, they must know traffic law inside out, practice it themselves and be experienced in enforcing all parts of it.

So long as their uniforms remain the main thing that distinguishes the traffic police from the general public there will and can be no progress. If they react to bad driving with the same shrug as the public does and if, what's more, they drive as badly as we do, they will have neither the judgement nor the moral authority to enforce the traffic law. What is urgently required, therefore, is greatly improved training and motivation, the former of which would itself help to increase the latter. With these, the traffic police will find themselves properly equipped to carry out the tasks we ought to expect of them.

More and better training for Jordan's traffic police must be a top priority. At the present time their failings are obvious to both the expert and inexperienced eye. It is clear to the former, for instance, that the policemen who frequently take over manual control of traf-

fic lights at busy junctions do not, unfortunately, know how to help traffic flow more efficiently. You don't have to be an expert, though, to observe that it takes more than having a hand to wave and a whistle to blow to make an effective traffic manager; that a circle can still become clogged, no matter how many policemen are gathered under the nearest shade; and that acts of dangerous driving will persist so long as we feel we can do them under a policeman's nose without punishment.

For such reasons, and despite the good work they do undertake, traffic policemen often come in for bad press. This they deserve, though, as many of their shortcomings aren't really their own fault. We should perhaps give them a break; but they're much more urgently in need of a break from their traffic department chiefs. To the latter I say that your men may be ready and willing, but until they're properly trained, they'll never be properly able. Give them that training and you give them the chance to become supermen.

Jordan's beleaguered road users could use a hero or two.

The writer is a British traffic engineer working in Jordan. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Stopping the second 'exodus'

By Michael Dynes

The appalling dilemmas facing Labour's post-war government in trying to block illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine before the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 are well recorded. But just what desperate measures the government was prepared to countenance to staunch the flow is revealed by secret documents from the Cabinet Office which were shown exclusively to The Times by the Public Record Office.

The documents show the Foreign Office trying to stop the balance of Arab and Jew in the population of Palestine being altered by illegal immigration. This was to embroil the pugnacious Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, in a feud with Zionists and their sympathisers in Britain and abroad which would outlive Labour's term of office.

A joint intelligence committee report dated April 1947 (shortly after Britain

had decided to hand over the Palestinian problem to the United Nations) warned that "every effort will be made by the Jewish Agency to increase the flow of illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine."

The report shows how badly the government was rattled by the scale of the problem. It estimated that 35,000 Jews in Europe were waiting for immediate embarkation to Palestine. In the American zone of Germany alone, a further 140,000 were awaiting passage at a later date. The British administration in Palestine could not cope with such a surge.

Repeated attempts failed to persuade the French government to abolish the transit quota limiting the number of Jews travelling across France. "This quota, coupled with the laxity in controlling departures from the south of France, constitutes a 'running sore'," one Cabinet Office document said.

Similar representations were made in Washington, but, the document added: "It

was evident that we shall get nowhere with the state department." The cabinet was particularly anxious about a report that U.S. Political Action Committee for Palestine was calling on President Truman to lend-lease a number of DC4 transport aircraft to fly illegal immigrants to Palestine in an "Exodus by Air" operation.

In the absence of any support from America and France, Britain was forced to rely heavily on M15 and M16 to ships being used to run the Royal Navy's blockade of Palestinian waters. By the summer of 1947, they had identified 37 ships hired by Jewish organisers, many of which flew the Panamanian flag.

One of the files held by the Public Record Office is still being treated as too sensitive to release, despite last year's open government initiative. It deals with the Royal Navy's boarding of the refugee ship Exodus, which caused a storm of protest around the world and was the

subject of a novel by Leon Uris.

In addition, a blacklist was compiled of everyone involved in providing ships, supplies or captains for the illicit traffic, in an attempt to delay or deny the vessels services.

Strenuous efforts by the Foreign Office succeeded in persuading the Panamanian chargé d'affaires in London to revoke registry of some vessels. But such diplomatic efforts had little impact on the flow of illegal immigrants. In an act of desperation, the Cabinet Office dispatched a cable to its diplomats, entreating them to "use whatever language appears to you most appropriate" to convince other governments that "this traffic... is likely to have unfortunate effects on our relations with them."

But the documents acknowledge that the task was impossible. "The immigrants were often in possession of correct passports and visas valid for entry to countries such as Costa Rica and Pana-

ma." Consequently, the port authorities in America, France, Italy and Romania could do little to prevent embarkation, even if they had wanted to.

Faced with a desperate situation the Cabinet debated desperate measures. A plan to introduce legislation giving the British government power to stop and search any vessel on the high seas suspected for carrying Jewish immigrants was abandoned when legal advisers warned that such action would violate international law, and would probably provoke other countries into stopping British ships in retaliation. A similar plan to force Lloyds to withhold insurance was abandoned when it became clear that alternative cover could be obtained elsewhere.

By May, the Cabinet Office's illegal immigration committee had decided to use the BBC to counter what it called the propaganda of the Jewish Agency. "Many Jews in Europe are being enticed to Palestine with stories of

milk and honey," said a position paper. "The committee has agreed on factual information to be put on the BBC European broadcast to counter this propaganda." The information included news items explaining that "Palestine today is a land of outrage and strife," and that "there are many Jews in Palestine who are eager to return to Europe but they dare not do so for fear of reprisals by terrorists."

By the time the Palestinian mandate had been surrendered to the U.N. in May 1948, when the state of Israel was proclaimed, Britain had absorbed 200,000 Jewish immigrants at home and had allowed 500,000 legal immigrants to enter Palestine. But Britain's search for a continuing role in the Middle East and the Foreign and Colonial Office's tilt towards the Arabs meant that Bevin found himself forever branded an anti-Semite.

The Times

U.S. reschedules

(Continued from page 1)

at the end of 1993. The Kingdom's major creditors are the U.S., France, Japan, Germany and Britain — all members of the Paris Club, which, as a body, holds \$4.01 billion of Jordan's debts. Of the Paris Club debts, \$1.24 billion have been rescheduled over the past few years.

A split-up of the Kingdom's foreign debts, as of Dec. 31, 1993, showed its major creditors as:

Arab governments and agencies: \$540 million; Paris Club members \$4 billion; foreign banks \$220 million; multilateral institutions (the International Monetary Fund and World Bank affiliates, the European Development Bank and Arab funds) \$1.1 billion; bonds \$250 million and leasing contracts (Royal Jordanian aircraft) \$430 million.

The World Bank has said that Jordan has to cut its debt by half — to bring it down to about 75 per cent of the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP) to regain the creditworthiness it enjoyed before the economic crisis of 1988-89. Today, Jordan's foreign debts constitute about 135 per cent of its GDP.

Diplomats have said that their governments were supportive of Jordan's quest to reduce its debt burden and might be willing to offer debt relief, but there might not be a uniform approach. Each government will have to adopt various alternative formulas depending on their policies and regulations.

Carlos lawyer alleges plot

(Continued from page 1)

Kopp and Mr. Breguet on terrorist charges.

But Mr. Verges claimed the ministry "arranged" for Ms. Kopp and Mr. Breguet on trial for possessing arms and explosives and assaulting a police officer, to be given light sentences. In the event, Mr. Breguet got five years and Ms. Kopp four.

Mr. Verges warned that if the French government disputed his claim, he would name the sympathetic magistrate the ministry had put forward to preside over the trial.

Mr. Verges said his information came from Captain

Paul Barril, former head of Mr. Mitterrand's anti-terrorism cell, who had authorised him to make the accusation public.

"Did you know, Mr. Verges, that I was ordered to assassinate you?" the media-wise Verges, one of the two lawyers defending Carlos, quoted Capt. Barril as telling him in 1991.

Capt. Barril was not immediately available to confirm the lawyer's statements and Mr. Mitterrand's office said it had no comment. The Venezuelan-born Carlos is in solitary confinement in a Paris jail.

South African workers feel cold-shouldered by new government

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's black workers, feeling cold-shouldered by the government they voted for, are turning to strike action to get the "better life for all" pledged by Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC).

The militant mood is a threat to efforts by the Mandela government to achieve the economic growth it sees as the best way of providing that better life.

Since Mr. Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president on May 10, walkouts in the motor, metal, paper and oil industries and in the civil service have spoiled hopes that the post-apartheid era would usher in calm on the labour front.

Already this year more working hours have been lost through strikes than in any year since 1987, union officials said.

More than 300,000 mining workers are now being asked whether they want to strike over a pay dispute with owners of the crucial coal and gold industries. The result is expected by August 28.

South African miners have not officially struck since 1987, during the dark days of apartheid, when the mine union leader was Cyril Ramaphosa, now the ANC's secretary-general and a central figure in the new South African establishment.

The new wave of labour revolt may look like disloyalty so soon after the ANC has assumed power

from the long-dominant white minority, but steel worker Munuzeli Mpondo sums up the mood:

"We do not care about the economy. We want something now, not tomorrow or next year."

"We voted for change, but nothing seems to be changing, in our lives, work places, homes, and in all spheres of life," Mr. Mpondo said.

The government and labour analysts are scratching their heads over the surging militancy, which cost 1.2 million man-hours between April and June this year, compared to 700,000 in the same period last year and 650,000 in 1992.

The experts cite a variety of causes, saying workers have unrealistic expectations after an ANC election victory, and that in a post-apartheid era there is increased worker sensitivity to actual or perceived racism or unequal treatment.

There are also angry rumblings over the fat pay packets given to the new elite: members of parliament earn 193,000 rand (\$54,000) per year and cabinet ministers 450,000 rand (\$125,000).

Many mine workers get 6,000 rand (\$1,600) a year. "The ANC government is holding a tiger by the tail and that is dangerous. They more than anyone else should realise that strikes will affect economic growth, something that the new government can ill afford at this stage," said Khulu Sibiba, editor of City Press, a weekly newspaper aimed at black readers.

But the government should not be surprised, say Sam Shilowa, leader of the



President Mandela seems to have fallen from grace among his country's workers only 100 days after taking office (AFP photo)

umbrella Congress of South African Trade Unions.

"In a country like South Africa, with obscene disparities, where workers have been denied their basic human rights, current developments are hardly surprising," he said.

"Workers are determined that the emerging economic upswing, and the apartheid dividend which not only benefits the rich at the expense of the poor. They are sick and tired of being asked to tighten their belts," he added.

"Workers expect to see political democracy trans-

lated into economic democracy at the workplace. They don't just want to hold a ballot paper every five years."

Labour analysts said the government was in an invidious position. "If the government is seen to back worker demands, business confidence will plummet. If it is seen to back the employers, they run the risk of losing votes in future elections," one said.

Mr. Mandela's government has said it will do what it can to help resolve strikes, but will not interfere with the right to stop work.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 17/8/94	Tokyo Close 18/8/94
Swiss Franc	1.5415	1.5425
Deutsche Mark	1.5516	1.5495
Swiss Franc	1.3035	1.3010
French Franc	5.3275	5.3285**
Japanese Yen	100.14	99.88
European Currency Unit	1.2225	1.2231**

Interest Rates

100 Per 100

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.68	5.00	5.50
Swiss Franc	4.93	5.31	5.75	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.68	4.75	5.06
Swiss Franc	5.87	4.06	4.25	4.43
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.06
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.18	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.94	6.12	6.63

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Swiss Franc	1.0700	1.0754
Deutsche Mark	0.4475	0.4497
Swiss Franc	0.5325	0.5352
French Franc	0.1304	0.1317
Japanese Yen	0.0055	0.0090
Dutch Guilder	0.3984	0.4004
Swedish Krona	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Date: 18/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	1.8260	1.8400
Saudi Riyal	0.04045	0.04185
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3400
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2060	0.2280
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8020
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3985	1.5100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
100 PER 100
100 PER 100
100 PER 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

100 PER 100

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.68	5.00	5.50
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Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.18	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.94	6.12	6.63

Shipping traffic into S. Arabia grows 10%

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Shipping traffic into Saudi Arabia grew by more than 10 per cent last year, the Saudi Ports Authority has said.

Shipping executives said the growth was the tail end of the post-Gulf war boom witnessed in the kingdom in 1993, especially in the construction sector.

In all, 8,547 vessels called on the kingdom's seven key ports in 1993 compared to 7,720 a year earlier, the ports authority's report said.

All of the kingdom's ports received more ships except the King Abdul Aziz Port on the Gulf of Damman, where the arrival of ships declined by 4.7 per cent in 1993 compared to 1992.

This decline was partially offset by the Jubail Commercial port, which had the highest growth rate of 84 per cent, and Yanbu commercial port with 78 per cent.

As a result, the Gulf-side Eastern Province almost maintained its position collectively, especially as the industrial city of Jubail is progressively becoming a huge consumer market.

Investors seek service sector shares at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) edged a little while prices showed an average one per cent decline last week, the weekly bourse report showed.

Brokers said stability had returned to the market after several months of uncertainty prompted by doubts cast on the economic prospects for Jordan from the Middle East peace process.

"It is business as usual as could be expected," said a broker. "Investors are enthusiastic and there is a new vitality on the floor."

The weekly AFM report said 4.5 million shares changed hands under 5.815 contracts worth JD12.4 million during last week. It reflected an 8.8 per cent rise over the previous week's JD11.4 million.

The general share price index closed at 152 points, down 1.1 points or 0.7 per cent from the week's opening.

Brokers said the drop was negligible. They said investors were moving away from industrial and commercial stock to service sector shares

with hopes of reaping benefits from the expected boom in tourism following Jordanian-Israeli moves to cooperate in the field.

"Many investors are ready to offer a little loss to raise liquidity to invest in service sector shares," said a broker, who cannot be identified under standing AFM guidelines. "That accounts for the slight decline in shares."

The AFM report said the highest turnover during the week with JD5.8 million, or 46.7 per cent, followed by the services sector with JD3.1 million, or 25 per cent, commercial banks with JD3.1 million, or 25 per cent, and insurance stock with JD10,000 or 0.1 per cent.

Shares of 80 companies were traded during the week, with 24 of them showing gains, 53 losing and three remaining stable.

The separate sector indices showed that industrial stocks slipped by 2.3 points, or 1.6 per cent, commercial bank stocks by 0.6 points or 0.4 per cent and insurance by 0.2 points, or 0.2 per cent. The service sector index went up by 1.8 points or 1.3 per cent.

Services sector registered the highest turnover during the week in a rare surge. The volume of service sector shares was JD3.5 million, or 46.7 per cent, of the weekly turnover, followed by commercial bank stocks with JD3.1 million, or 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, international analysts dismissed suggestions by brokers that foreign capital was being withdrawn from the AFM for more lucrative markets elsewhere.

Angus Blair, an analyst with the London-based Baring Securities Limited which has been closely studying the Jordanian stock market, said no large amounts of foreign capital had entered the market to start with.

He said he had not come across any instances where a foreign investor had disposed of acquisitions in the AFM.

Those who have bought Jordanian shares have kept them, he told the Jordan Times.

However, it will be some time before substantial foreign capital would be seen at the AFM, he said.

The government has approved a few foreign portfolio dealers to come in with around \$100 million into the AFM, but brokers have been complaining that the money was not visible in the market.

Mr. Blair explained that it was illogical for anyone to expect foreign investors to come in with huge amounts in quick moves. They need to assess the market, scrutinise pros and cons and adopt strategies before committing themselves, he said.

Mr. Blair also rejected suggestions of some that AFM prices were inflated, pointing out that market forces dictate the prices.

Describing those who make such statements as shortsighted and ill-informed, Mr. Blair also brushed aside comparisons between the collapsed Al Manakib stock market of Kuwait and the AFM.

The collapse of the Kuwaiti market was a very rare occurrence best forgotten and the elements that were at play in Kuwait are not regular features of any stock market around the world, least of all at the AFM, he said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3738/48	Canadian dollar	1.7284/94
1.2922/32	1.2922/32	Deutsche marks	1.5728/38
31.75/79	31.75/79	Dutch guilders	5.2861/11
1572.84/3	1572.84/3	Swiss francs	1.7058/58
98.29/39	98.29/39	Belgian francs	6.7166/76
7.7058/58	7.7058/58	French francs	6.1062/12
6.7166/76	6.7166/76	Italian lire	81.5476/86
6.1062/12	6.1062/12	Japanese yen	381.30381.70
81.5476/86	81.5476/86	Swedish crowns	
381.30381.70	381.30381.70	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

American Home Products buys out American Cyanamid

WAYNE, New Jersey (AFP) — Pharmaceutical giant American Cyanamid Company has bowed to a hostile takeover bid by American Home Products Corp. for \$101 per share, the two companies announced.

The total value on the transaction is \$9.7 billion. It will forge the number-two pharmaceutical company in the United States after Johnson and Johnson.

"The American Cyanamid board has determined that the terms of the offer and merger are fair" and "recommends that the stockholders tender their American Cyanamid shares in American Home Products' tender offer," a joint statement said.

The takeover will make American Cyanamid a wholly owned subsidiary of American Home Products. Annual sales volume is anticipated to go over \$12 billion.

The \$101 offer is \$600 million more than American Home Products' initial offer made Aug. 2. It is also 60 per cent higher than Aug. 1 American Cyanamid stock prices. The offer will expire at midnight in New York Sept. 14.

The merger agreement came after two weeks of uncertainty during which American Cyanamid searched in vain for another offer.

American Cyanamid's board of directors urged shareholders not to respond to the American Home Products offer until the board expressed an opinion.

American Home Products increased its offer to \$100 per share Monday giving American Cyanamid 24 hours to accept. American Cyanamid did not respond.

The surprise announcement Wednesday interrupted discussions between American Cyanamid and SmithKline Beecham, P.L.C.

One of the conditions of the American Home Products takeover was to end the discussions between American Cyanamid and SmithKline Beecham.

American Home Products is the number five pharmaceutical firm in the United States. The Madison, New Jersey, company posted net profits of \$1.46 billion on sales of \$8.3 billion for 1993.

American Cyanamid, the number nine producer, posted a net loss of \$1.1 billion in 1993 on sales of \$5.3 billion. The company is undergoing restructuring.

The offer comes in a time marked by other takeovers and mergers in the pharmaceutical sector.

Until this offer, the most expensive takeover in pharmaceutical was last year when Merck and Co. took over Medco Containment Services for \$6.6 billion.

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Queen declares Commonwealth Games open; competition begins

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Pigeons flew as young girls danced amid multi-colored banners, mounties rode their horses to a musical accompaniment. Queen Elizabeth II delivered her message in French and English.

And the crowd heartily cheered the return of South Africa.

So began the XV Commonwealth Games Thursday as 3,350 athletes from a record 64 nations began 10 days of competition in this charming provincial capital on the southern tip of British Columbia's Vancouver Island.

The Jet's of Canada's Snowbirds precision flying team roared in tight formation over the makeshift stadium at the University of Victoria, where some 33,500 people gathered to watch the queen's opening of the games. An estimated 500 million watched on television worldwide.

Competition began today in seven sports, including swimming. Some of the top swimmers in the world are entered.

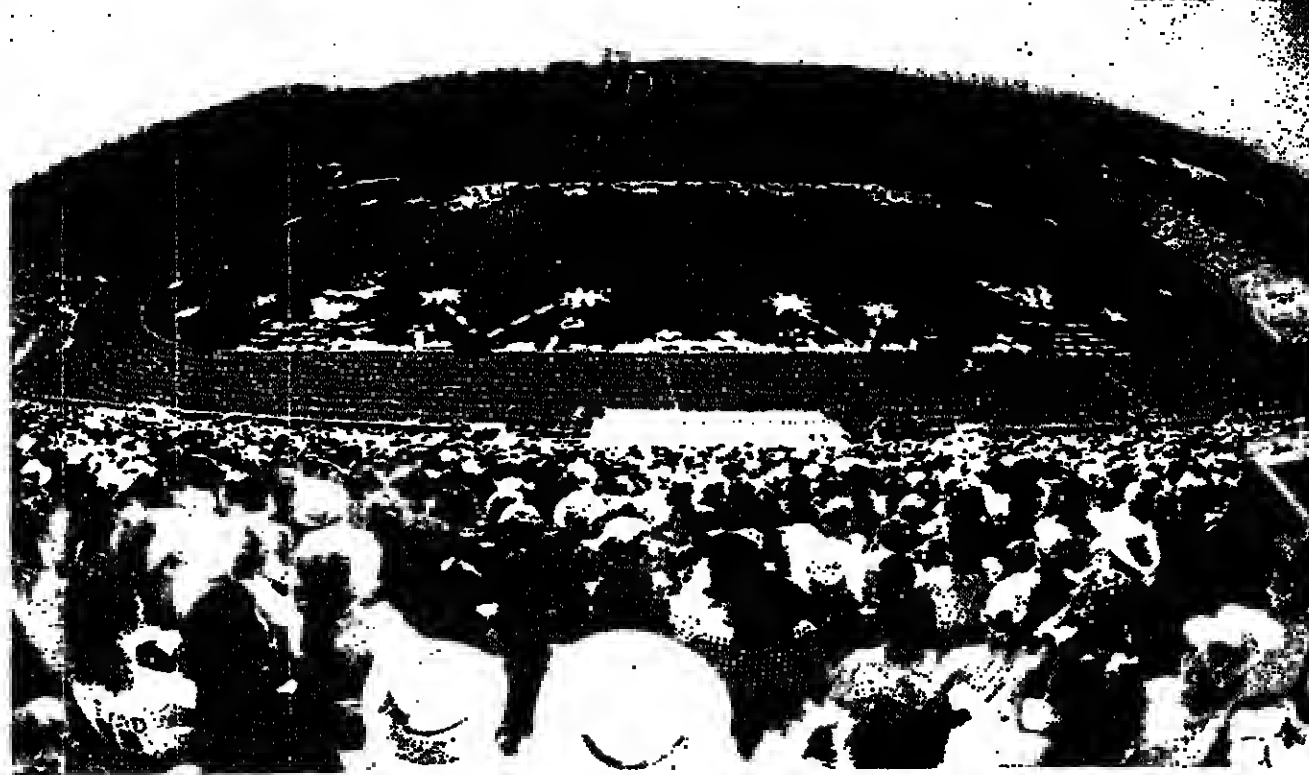
Australian Hayley Lewis will try to add to the five gold medals she won four years ago in Auckland, New Zealand.

Her countryman, Phil Rogers, the short course world record-holder, will go against 200 champion Jon Cleveland of Canada and favored Nick Gillingham of England in the 100 breaststroke.

Another Australian, Kieren Perkins, who holds the world record at 800 and 1,500 metres, goes in the 200 freestyle.

The opening day of competition also includes badminton, boxing, gymnastics, lawn bowls, wrestling and shooting. Track and field starts Monday and weightlifting begins Tuesday.

The 2-hour opening ceremony was produced by Jacques Lemay, who also put together the opening extravaganza for the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988. Thursday's themes were tied to the native heritage of Vancouver Island, and of the different cultures of the people of Canada.



Spectators watch the opening ceremonies of the XV Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia (AFP photo)

when majority blacks were granted equal status.

The beaming athletes and officials waved flags from their newly integrated land.

The athletes waved as they walked past the queen. Only the delegation from Tonga bowed to her.

Great Britain is represented by four delegations — from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, whose men wore blue and red plaid kilts as they marched around the track.

Canadian Biathlete Myriam Bedard, a two-time gold medal winner in the winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway, brought the queen's baton into the stadium on roller blades, using ski poles to propel herself around the track.

The baton, designed by three artists from the three native "first nations" of Vancouver Island, left Buckingham Palace in London on March 14 and was taken to all

regions of the Commonwealth.

After the baton was presented to the queen, she read the message it contained declaring the games officially open.

"We know that we can expect 10 days of fine sporting achievement at the venues, the traditional comradeship of the games' village and the excitement and happiness that comes from the meeting of athletes from all parts of the Commonwealth," the queen said.

"I greatly look forward to my stay here and wish you all a successful and joyful games."

The queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, entered the stadium in a 1939 Buick convertible. They joined their son, Prince Edward, the president of the Commonwealth Federation; Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and other dignitaries to watch the ceremony.

money.

Sir Roger Bannister, who ran the first sub-4-minute mile in 1954, and his great rival, John Landy of Australia, raised the Commonwealth flag.

The loudest cheers were for the host team, whose members tossed frisbees into the crowd.

New Zealand, which hosted the Commonwealth games four years ago, led the parade.

The Australian delegation was led by a group of disabled athletes, a response to comments by the head of the team that such athletes were an "embarrassment" to the games.

Arthur Tunstall later apologized and said his remarks were taken out of context.

Hong Kong made its final appearance in the games, its delegation waving politely. Hong Kong is to be ceded to China in 1997.

UCI threatens cyclists with tougher doping penalties

1st Tour of China race set to begin

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — The International Cycling Union (UCI) has confirmed tougher penalties for doping.

The definitive version of the anti-doping regulations, first announced provisionally in May, come into effect from November 1," the UCI executive board said in a statement issued Friday.

The new rules, already in effect on a provisional basis, do away with suspended sentences for professionals. Now they can be banned for six months to a year for a first offence.

They can be suspended for one to two years for a second infringement and banned from the sport for a third offence. All professional offences carry fines in Swiss francs and loss of ranking points.

The punishment for amateurs in similar suspensions but without fines.

For lesser substances there are penalties of three months maximum, six to 12 months, and exclusion. If a rider is found positive more than once in a short space of time for using the same substance or the same method it will be considered as one offence.

Cycling has joined other sports by announcing that from 1996 there will be a common racing licence for professionals and amateurs.

The 1996 road team time trial championships have been switched to Switzerland because tiny Monaco where they were due to be held faced big traffic problems.

Monaco will still stage the professional road race and the English City of Manchester's new Velodrome will house the track racing in 1996, the next Olympic year.

The UCI have awarded the western Australian city of Perth the 1997 world track championships, while San Sebastian in northern Spain will hold the road championships that year.

The motor-paced, first run as a world championship in 1895, and the tandem sprint

RICHMOND, Va. (R) — China will host its first professional cycling race, the seven-day Tour of China, the event's American co-organisers announced Thursday.

Michael Plant, president of Medallist Sports, Inc., organisers of the Tour DuPont, said the new race will feature as many as 18 international and national teams of seven riders each and will be held during an 11-day period, beginning in late October, 1995.

Although plans have been evolving for months, the event's status was confirmed when Plant received next season's international race schedule released by Union Cycliste Internationale, the sport's governing organisation, at the World Cycling Championships in Sicily.

The new race will be held in conjunction with the Chinese government, the Chinese Olympic Committee, several Chinese cycling associations and an international corporate sponsor.

According to Plant, who was a co-founder of the Tour de Triump (the Tour DuPont's predecessor) in 1989, the Tour of China will begin in Hong Kong and progress into Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Beijing.

"I realise the cyclists won't be in Tour de France shape, but I talked with a lot of teams during Tour de France this year, and I'm sure there will be a lot of interest," said Plant, the former Olympic speedskater. "I think we can get some of the top riders and teams in the world."

Plant estimated the race's yearly budget at \$6.5 million, similar he said to the annual budget of the Tour DuPont, the most prestigious cycling event in North America.

The Tour of China will be contested near the end of the season, following the final World Cup event and when the season's remaining events are primarily held in Australia.

The race, which has a three-year contract, will be sanctioned as an international-open race, which allows a percentage of amateur to compete.

Plant will soon make his fifth trip to China in the last four months to begin course selections. Exact race dates, the name of the major corporate sponsor, prize money structure and other details are expected to be announced at a press conference in Hong Kong in November, Plant said.

will be dropped from the world track championships from next year.

They will be replaced by Madison racing and an Olympic sprint.

Madison, named after New York's Madison Square gardens where it was popularised, is a race between teams of two with one partner racing while the other rests, as they try to gain laps and sprint for points. It is the main event in winter six-day

tracking.

The Olympic sprint is contested by three riders. The first two each race a lap and pull out, leaving the third to set a time on his lap. The result is based on aggregate times from a series of races.

The number of world titles is being cut from 78 to 55 and from 1997 the junior road race will be run with the men's and women's road championships.

China warns of 'political troubles' for Asian Games over inviting Taiwan president

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government Friday warned if a political storm if Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui was allowed to visit Asia's biggest sporting event, to be held in Hiroshima in October.

The invitation to Lee from the Olympic Council of Asia to the 12th Asian Games has also embarrassed the host nation. The Japanese government was reported to have expressed the hope that Lee stays away to avoid China-Taiwan confrontation at the showcase event.

"If Lee Teng-hui is invited, there will be political troubles at the sporting games," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said. But the spokesman disputed whether Lee had been asked.

"As far as we know, the organising committee of the Hiroshima Asian Games has decided to invite Lee Teng-hui," he said.

According to the Tokyo press, Chinese President Jiang Zemin warned Japanese politician Koichi Kato Wednesday that Beijing did not want Taiwan's leaders welcomed in Hiroshima.

The Japanese government hopes Lee will decide not to visit the games which are to be held in Hiroshima from October 2-16, a government source in Tokyo said.

The source was quoted by Jiji Press as saying that in view of China's objections, the government expected the Taiwanese president not to accept.

In Taipei, presidential spokesman Raymond Tai

told reporters that a check was being carried out to see if Lee was invited. The foreign ministry said it was "never informed" of an invitation.

But China's Olympic Committee secretary general, Wei Jichang, who is in Taipei for an international volleyball tournament, confirmed that an invitation was extended by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait.

"I learned about it in July and duly protested," Wei said. He described the invitation as "improper."

The Hiroshima authorities and national government have spent hundreds of millions of dollars preparing for Asia's biggest sporting event. They are anxious to avoid political controversies that have dogged previous games.

In 1990, China hosted the games when still facing international reproach over the Tiananmen Square massacre the previous year. There was also a dispute over Iraqi participation because of the Kuwait invasion in August 1990.

But the Japanese source said that it was difficult for Tokyo to reject Lee's entry into the country if he decided to go.

International sports officials said OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad issued the invitation, to the consternation of both the Chinese and Japanese authorities.

Sheikh Ahmad has strong links with Taiwan and has met Lee twice.

Japan stopped all high-

Palestine may rescue Asia Games soccer

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Palestine may come to the rescue of the Asian Games soccer tournament in Hiroshima which has been hit by multiple defections.

Palestine and Malaysia have made late entries which could save the organisers from making a new draw following the withdrawals of Brunei, Mongolia and Indonesia.

The Hiroshima organisers were reluctant to hold a re-draw because all of Japan's games in qualifying group E have already been organised and all tickets sold.

Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan said that if the late entries were accepted, Palestine and Malaysia could take the place of Indonesia and Brunei in the existing draw.

New rules will be used for the soccer contest at the games from October 2-16. A win will be worth three points instead of two for group games, as it was at the World Cup.

Sudden death extra-time will be introduced for knockout stage games level after 90 minutes. The first goal scored will settle the match and if there are no goals after 30 minutes there will be a penalty shootout.

The "Golden goal" rule is already used in Japan's J-League and former England captain Gary Lineker, now with Nagoya Grampus Eight, believes it adds extra excitement to matches.

ranking and cabinet-level official exchanges with Taiwan after it broke diplomatic relations with the Nationalist island in 1972 and switched recognition to Beijing.

China has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province ever since Nationalist forces fled to the island in 1949 after a losing a civil war to the communists.

Japan will have a similar problem to resolve when it hosts a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum next

year, to which both China and Taiwan might be invited.

Lee was prevented from attending last year's APEC summit in Seattle because of Chinese objections. The Chinese president is also reported to have threatened to boycott this year's APEC summit in Indonesia if Lee attends.

The source said the government was also concerned as Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama was planning to visit China before the end of the year, probably in October.

The Roger Penske team, led by Al Unser Jr., has taken the spotlight this year, with Unser far ahead in the standings with 153 points, followed by teammates Fittipaldi with 117 and Tracy with 91.

There are more World Cup stars at the back of the Bayern pack in Brazilian Jorginho and German captain Lothar Matthaus while Papin will be playing up front with Colombian Adolfo Valencia.

Bayern, with an automatic place in the European Champions league, have also stumped up three million dol-

Europe's footballers back on the ball

PARIS (AFP) — Europe's footballers will once again be donning boots and shin pads this weekend as the new league season kicks off in Germany, Portugal and Belgium.

The stars of the Italian Calcio and the Spanish Liga may have another two weeks in the sun, but it's back to work for the rest of the continent, where the spotlight is firmly trained on the Bundesliga.

After a short spell in the wilderness, big spending Bayern Munich are back in charge of the German league, having being crowned champions last season and finishing runners-up the year before.

And for 1994/95, Bayern have by far the strongest team on paper, after spending \$3.5 million on French striker Jean-Pierre Papin and a further \$1.8 million on Swiss World Cup revelation Alain Sutter in midfield.

Papin is clearly hoping to make a fresh start after two unhappy seasons with AC Milan. Underscored by Fabio Capello's team tactics and orders, the Frenchman failed to find the form which made him a European Footballer of the Year with Olympique Marseille.

"I'm going to explode," he predicted. "I've got the same role as I had at Marseille. In Italy, I could never try anything spectacular because of the constraints of team orders."

"The Calcio is not a league for goal scorers," he said. "I don't know of a single team which doesn't walk onto the field with the aim of getting a 0-0 draw. If you can score a goal in the 89th minute, OK. But before then you stay put."

"It's not a system I fitted into. Yet I've often thought of Ian Rush. A great goalscorer at Liverpool, he went to Juventus and only scored three times. He went back to England and scored 30."

There will however be another Italian connection for Bayern this season as the new coach is Giovanni Trapattoni, brought in from Inter Milan.

There are more World Cup stars at the back of the Bayern pack in Brazilian Jorginho and German captain Lothar Matthaus while Papin will be playing up front with Colombian Adolfo Valencia.

Bayern, with an automatic place in the European Champions league, have also stumped up three million dol-



France's Corentin Martins (left) and David Gincola (right) try to stop Czech Novotny during the friendly match Wednesday which ended in a 2-2 draw (AFP photo)

lars for Karlsruhe goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Their opening match is against VfL Bochum Saturday in Munich's Olympic stadium.

Three clubs will be challenging Franz Beckenbauer's side for honours — Borussia Dortmund, Werder Bremen and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Dortmund, last season's runners-up, have splashed out \$7.5 million on bringing Juventus' Julio Cesar of Brazil and Andreas Moller to Germany.

In Stefan Reuter, Matthias Sammer, Karl-Heinz Riedle, Dortmund now have five players in their first team squad with experience of Calcio's Serie A.

Bremen, who beat Bayern 3-1 in the German Super Cup showdown earlier this month, have consistently proved that modest resources do not always make for modest results. The club is Germany's most successful in domestic action over the last 10 years.

But like Bayern's first team, they will want to forget last weekend's disastrous German Cup ties. The bolders were knocked out in the first round by Bayern's B team, who play in the amateur championships.

Bayern's A team were scuppered by TSV Vestenbergsgreuth, who play in one of the country's regional leagues.

Eintracht, hoping to win the first division title for the

first time in the club's history, will again be turning to their African duo — Anthony Yeboah of Ghana and Nigeria's Augustin Okocha — for inspiration.

Yeboah finished as the Bundesliga's joint top scorer last season with Kaiserslautern's Stefan Kuntz, on 18 goals apiece. Okocha, at only 21, is already being talked of as one of the greatest attacking midfielders of his generation.

To try and guide the team to that elusive crown Eintracht have brought back former West German international Jupp Heynckes, as coach, from Bilbao.

In their first games this weekend, Dortmund host newly promoted PSV 1860 Munich, Bremen travel to Dynamo Dresden and Eintracht are at home to Cologne.

The French league is already well underway, but with champions Paris St. Germain and last season's European Cup representatives Monaco both struggling in the wrong half of the table after four matches.

PSG have the unenviable task of an away game at the league's joint leaders Nantes in a match which was to be played Friday night.

Last time they met, Nantes inflicted the Parisians' worst defeat of the season, 3-0. Nantes have won three of their four games so far this season while PSG have won only once.

Yet Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau remains wary of the capital club.

"The context has changed. Last season, they'd just been knocked out of the European Cup Winners Cup by Arsenal in the league championship was already in the bag."

Monaco host Lille Saturday night while the surprise joint leaders, Lyon, travel to midtable Cannes and Borussia Dortmund, third in the table, are at Bordeaux.

Portuguese champions Benfica lost Rui Costa to Juventus and their Swedish midfielder Stefan Schwarz to Arsenal of England in the summer break.

But they have made the most exciting signings in Argentine striker Claudio Cannigia from Roma and Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.

Cannigia looked as lethal as ever when he returned following a 3-month cocaine suspension but a broken toe restricted to him less than three matches in the World Cup.

Preud'homme, voted best goalkeeper in the United States, joins Benfica from Mechelen.

Benfica are coached by Artur Jorge who in two seasons in France won the Cup and championship for Paris St. Germain before the television company which supplies most of the club's money got bored with his brand of football.

Mansell looking to get back on track

LUDON, New Hampshire (AP) — Nigel Mansell and Paul Tracy return this weekend to the scene of one of the great Indy-car races, with Mansell looking for a replay to get back on track this season.

With time running out in the 1993 Slick 50 200 at the New Hampshire International Speedway, Mansell was third behind Tracy and Emerson Fittipaldi, with several lapped cars also in front of him.

"Up until the last five laps, I was in no position to win," Mansell said.

But after slipping past Fittipaldi, Mansell worked through traffic and finally got

Tracy in his sights. He pulled off a daring inside pass on turn two of lap 197 and then fended off repeated attempts by Tracy to regain the lead. Mansell won the race by 4.53 seconds and went on to win the Indy-car driving title as a rookie.

A year later, Mansell said the victory "definitely was one of the three best of my career. It ranks straight up there with Brands Hatch in 1986 and Silverstone in 1987."

"It's the most thoroughbred racing I've ever done in my life. You can race in a different way on ovals which you can't do on road courses. You can take different lines



Nigel Mansell

and go side by side." Mansell hopes to relieve the moment Sunday in a renewal of the Slick 50 200 at

the one-mile oval, the nation's newest superspeedway. He could use a boost.

In 11 races this year, his best finish is a second, after winning five times last year. He also is far behind in the standings in sixth place with 79 points with six races left.

"We'll be ready at New Hampshire to redeem ourselves," he said, and pointed to the wide track that allows room for passing.

The Roger Penske team, led by Al Unser Jr., has taken the spotlight this year, with Unser far ahead in the standings with 153 points, followed by teammates Fittipaldi with 117 and Tracy with 91.



Michael Stich

Stich advances, Washington upsets Korda in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Top-seeded Michael Stich beat 15th-seeded David Vacek 6-2, 6-2 in the Volvo International late Thursday in a match interrupted by an emergency alarm accidentally set off by another player's young son.

Stich, who earlier beat Marcelo Rios in a match resumed because of a rain delay Wednesday, was leading Vacek 6-2, 2-1 in the third-round match when the alarm sounded at stadium court.

The players and fans evacuated the 15,000-seat stadium after an automated voice came over loudspeakers, saying "an emergency device had been discovered," and instructing anyone inside to calmly leave.

Moments after the building was emptied, tournament officials broadcast over the loudspeaker system on the grounds of the Connecticut Tennis Centre that it was a false alarm and safe to return to watch the match.

Stich finished off Vacek after a 5 1/2-minute delay, as fans were filing back into their seats.

Stich, who earlier Thursday beat Rios 6-3, 7-5 in a second-round match suspended Wednesday night when it started to rain, was one of five players advancing to the quarterfinals.

No. 11 Malvic Washington upset no. 5 Petr Korda 6-3, 6-3 in a match between the last two runner-ups of the tournament — Washington in 1992 and Korda last year.

In other early third-round matches, no. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat qualifier Wayne Black 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; no. 8 Patrick Rafter defeated Vincent Spadea 7-6 (7-2), 6-4; and no. 7 Marc Rosset overcame no. 10 Ivan Lendl 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, 6-4.

In night matches, third-seeded Boris Becker defeated no. 13 Andrei Chesnokov, and no. 2 Andrei Medvedev, the defending Volvo champion, won the second of his back-to-back matches to advance to the quarterfinals.

Medvedev, who won against Grant Stafford early Thursday in a second-round match postponed the day before because of the weather, beat no. 16 Stefano Pescosolido 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

Stich said he tried to get

off the court as fast as he could after hearing the alarm, which was accidentally set off in the players' lounge by the 2-year-old son of Cyril Suk, who's competing in the doubles competition.

"All I thought to do is get off the court as quickly as possible and get somewhere safe," he said.

Stich said playing back-to-back matches didn't hurt his game, and that he was somewhat surprised by how quickly he was able to finish off Vacek.

"It was easier than I expected it to be," Stich said. The false alarm was the latest calamity at the Volvo International, which seems to have some type of problem each year since moving to New Haven in 1990.

On Tuesday night, Andre Agassi made a mockery of the music being played between changeovers, an idea being tested by the ATP tour.

In past years, the tournament has suffered from numerous rain delays, problems with the court surface, and player complaints about the lights.



Bashar Bustami Friday climbs to victory in Al Rumman Hill Climb (Photo by Rana Hussain)

Bustami captures title of Rumman Hill Climb

By Rana Hussain

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Bashar Bustami Friday drove his Ford Sierra Cosworth to victory as he topped 67 top-level Arab and Jordanian competitors at the Rumman Hill Climb to claim both titles for the single and total time recorded over two stages.

Bustami registered 2 minutes 12.37 seconds in the first round of the three-kilometre race, and came back in the second round to break his own record with a time of 2:12.20. This record, however, was still far from the best of the previous record of 2:02.42 set by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989 in a Mercedes 190.

The second place single and overall totals were won by Lebanese Adel Mami in his BMW M3 who clocked 2:16:55 in the first stage and 2:15:12 in the second and final stage.

Hasan Abu Samra took the

third place after he fell 4 seconds short of Mami's totals in his Daihatsu Charmant Spl. Abu Samra's total in both stages was 4:36:31.

The race, considered one of the most popular auto sports events in the Kingdom saw the elimination of seven auto racers. Jordan's 1993 Drivers Open champion Amjad Farrah was forced out of the race in the second stage after one of his Renault 5 Turbo 2 tyres blew up. Fawaz Bilbeisi was also forced out of the competition during the second stage, when he lost control of his vehicle on a sharp curve, hit a fence and rolled over before landing on a pile of rocks. None was hurt in the accident.

Randa Nabulsi, appearing for the third time in the competition, was the only female participant. In her first appearance in 1988, she clocked 2:36:00. She was unable to improve her previous record as she finished the

race in 2:49:51.

Nabulsi, driving a Seat Ibiza SXI, won the women's title.

The hill climb, which was initiated by His Majesty back in 1956 is a favourite among the sports fans who in this year's event did not respect the course, with some of them crossing the street during the race, thus distracting the racers.

The event, which was organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and sponsored by Pepsi and the Forte Grand Hotel, is a full day event which is divided into six classes depending on the engine capacity of cars. It offers competitors and spectators alike a chance to witness top level competition in one of the most scenic parts of the Kingdom.

Awards were distributed to the winners late Friday after the official results were announced.

Unseeded Karbacher upsets Bruguera in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —

Unseeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany advanced to the quarterfinals of the RCA championships Thursday with an upset of second-seed, Sergi Bruguera.

Karbacher said after his 7-6 (7-5), (7-3) victory he knew he couldn't volley with Bruguera, ranked third in the world.

"You have to go for your best shots, and if you miss, you miss," Karbacher said. The aggressive tactics paid off with a victory, putting Karbacher into a U.S. quarterfinal for the first time. It is also his best showing in a hardcourt tournament.

"I always played pretty good on hardcourts, but I never had big wins," Karbacher said. "I think it is the biggest win for me, of course."

Bruguera became the fifth of the top six seeds to lose at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre this week. Only third-seeded Stephan Edberg has escaped upset.

Seventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa moved into the quarterfinals with a three-set victory over the ninth seed, Carlos Costa of Spain, 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (3-7), 6-2.

The run of hometown favourite Kent Kinnear of

nearby Greenwood ended against fellow American Richey Reneberg, 6-1, 6-0.

Alex Corretja of Spain, who ousted fifth-seeded Jim Courier on Tuesday, continued his strong play with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over the 12th seed, Andrea Gaudenzi.

The 16th seed, Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, ousted doubles specialist Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). Woodforde had upset top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia Wednesday to make the third round.

Jonathan Stark of Seattle ended the impressive run of Mats Wilander, 6-3, 6-3.

IAAF to look in fight between 100m stars

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) —

The IAAF said Friday it will examine whether to take disciplinary action against two 100-metre stars who had a fist fight, even though the two consider the matter closed.

Nigerian sprinter Olapade Adeniken had to withdraw from the lucrative Golden Four meeting in Brussels Friday after being injured in a fight with American runner Dennis Mitchell early Thursday in Zurich.

"While this is a private matter, the IAAF finds the behaviour of both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Adeniken unbecoming of world class athletes and detrimental to both the sport and the nations they represent," the International Amateur Athletic Federation said in a statement.

Adeniken was briefly hospitalized and needed two stitches to close a cut over one eye, was bruised and felt dizzy after the brawl.

American 110-metre hurdler Goger Kingdom and hotel security guards separated the sprinters as some 60 hotel guests watched.

"This kind of behaviour is intolerable," the IAAF statement said.

Both men had run the 100 metres in the Weltklasse Grand Prix meeting in the Swiss city late Wednesday and were both scheduled to run in Brussels Grand Prix Friday.

Two horses for Boutin in Prix Mornay race

PARIS (R) — French trainer

Francis Boutin, who has won the Prix Mornay five times in the last six years, has two horses in a seven-strong field for the Deauville race Sunday.

Boutin runs Batista and Expelled in the Prix Mornay, first French group one race of the year for two year-olds.

Batista, bred for former top French trainer Alee Head, made a winning debut at the Normandy track in July in the Prix Yacowlef, romping home by two and a half lengths.

Expelled gained a hard-fought win over another of Sunday's contenders, Teresh-

kova, at Longchamp in June.

The pair met again in the group two Prix Robert Papin at Maisons-Laffitte in July when Tereshkova lost by a neck to British colt General Monash, with Expelled a further five lengths back in third after losing a shoe.

Tereshkova, trained by Andre Fabre, went on to win the group three Prix de Cabourg at Deauville earlier this month.

In a strong foreign presence, British filly Hoh Magie, from the Newmarket Yard of in-form Michael Bell, has solid credentials having won three of her four starts.

Versatile Morceli steps down to 800 in Cologne

BONN (R) — Noureddine

Morceli, who already has world records in the mile, 1,500 and 3,000 metres to his name, aims to prove his remarkable versatility with a world-class 800 metres time at Sunday's Cologne Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Meeting chief Manfred Gernar said Friday that 24-year-old Morceli, who smashed the 3,000 world record in Monaco earlier this month, believes he can run one of the fastest times in the world this year for the two-lap race.

Although he is very unlikely to threaten Sebastian Coe's 13-year-old world best of 1:41.73, the Algerian gave clear evidence of his speed with a last lap of 55 seconds when he broke Kenyan Moses Kiptanui's 3,000 record with a time of seven minutes 25.11 seconds.

Morceli, who has said he is capable of breaking every world record from 800 to 5,000, is to take on Olympic and newly crowned European 1,500 metres champion Fermin Cacho of Spain and Kenya's Olympic 800 champion William Tanui in what should be a fascinating race.

Kiptanui set the previous 3,000 best of 7:28.96 at the Cologne meeting two years ago and will go over the same distance in one of the other highlights of the high-class meeting in the Rhine city.

The world steeplechase champion will clash with Germany's Olympic 5,000 metres champion Dieter Baumann and his fellow Kenyan Paul Birok, silver medalist over 5,000 at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Gernar was hesitant about billing the race as another world-record bid by Kiptanui, who clocked the fastest



Noureddine Morceli

time in the world this year for the 3,000 steeplechase at the Zurich Grand Prix Wednesday. Much will depend on the conditions.

Mozambique's world champion Maria Mtola is scheduled to run in the women's 800 after her world record bid was thwarted by rain in Zurich. Mtola still managed the fastest time of the year of one minute 55.19 seconds in the Swiss city.

The women's 100 metres also has a good field with Gwen Torrence, American world 100 bronze medalist and Olympic 200 champion, out to avenge her 200 defeat

in Zurich by Russian double European champion Irina Privalova.

The men's 100 metres is without Britain's Olympic and world champion Linford Christie, who will head to Canada for the Commonwealth Games after Friday's "Golden four" meeting in Brussels.

But in-form American Dennis Mitchell, the Olympic bronze medalist who was involved in a hotel brawl after the meeting in Zurich, is due to take on his top-class compatriots Jon Drummond and world silver medalist Andre Cason.

Former world champ cherished Lithuania as much as his title

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) —

Jack Sharkey, son of Lithuanian immigrants, was as proud of his ethnic heritage as he was of being heavyweight boxing champion.

Sharkey, known in New Hampshire, where he spent more than half his life, as "the Squire of Epping," died Wednesday at 91. He was champion in 1932-33.

Whenever he recognised a reporter who spoke his boyhood language, the hulking bulldog of a man inevitably would say, "Sveiks, Broli Lietuvi Kaip Tau?" — "Hello, brother Lithuanian how are you?"

From there on, he'd insist upon speaking in the world's oldest spoken Sanskrit-related tongue because he said he needed the practice and no one spoke it at home in Epping.

Even though he changed his name from Joseph Paul

Zukauskas when he started boxing, he didn't hide his ethnic background.

It was hard to keep Sharkey on-top because he'd want to know the latest news from Lithuania's tiny Lithuanian community, where he often was at the head table during ethnic celebrations at St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church.

Whether the subject was Muhammad Ali, whom he held to be the greatest fighter ever, or his encyclopaedic knowledge of hunting and fishing in New England, Sharkey would turn the conversation to fellow Lithuanian-American athletes — Eddie Waitkus, Dick Butkus, Johnny Unitas, Vitas Gerulaitis.

A map of Lithuania hung in his study beside a photograph captioned "The kid's last fight," showing the former champ face down on the mat.

Sharkey started visiting Epping in the 1920s to train and recuperate from his bouts. He settled there in 1952 and moved into the house in which his late wife had been born.

During his years in Epping, he and U.S. major league baseball star Ted Williams often appeared together at sportsmen's shows.

In recent years, he moved to a nursing home in Beverly, Mass.

The townspeople paid Sharkey the ultimate tribute when they hung two autographed pictures of him next to the president of the United States at the Epping post office.

Sharkey said he didn't miss the boxing as much as he missed the attention of having been a celebrity.

"It's nice to be remembered and hell to be forgotten," he used to tell his Lithuanian visitors.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
Tribuna Media Services, Inc.

TEST YOUR PLAY

Neither vulnerable. East deals

NORTH
♠ 10 8
♥ Q 9 6
♦ A K J 10 2
♣ 8 5 3

EAST
♠ K Q 5 4
♥ 10
♦ J 7 6
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 4 3 2
♥ 9 7 3
♦ 8 3
♣ A 10

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♥ Pass 2♠
Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥
Pass 4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Imagine that you're playing in the European Championship. With the result of your match riding on this deal, you and your partner reach a good contract of four hearts. How would you play if you receive the lead of a trump? What about if West attacks with the king of clubs?

The auction is routine, so all that remains is for you to make your contract. For those declarers who received an unfriendly trump lead,

The solution is to win the club lead, cash the ace of trumps and then play A K J of diamonds. If East ruffs, declarer overruffs and will be able to ruff the third spade in dummy. If East covers, declarer ruffs high, crosses to the queen of trumps and discards a club on the ten of diamonds — the defenders can get, at most, one trump and two spades. If East follows low, declarer simply discards the club loser and all's well.

T O D A Y	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION	Mahmoud Abed Al Aziz IN KHALTBITA	CONCORD '1' STRIKING DISTANCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Tom Hanks — in Philadelphia Shows: 3 - 6 - 10:30	ABOVE THE LAW Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 From Aug. 24 the political play "Sahra Kamonneyeh"	The political play Welcome Arabic Summit At 8:30 every Saturday and Sunday Salam Ya Salam play At 8:30 every Monday, Wednes- day, Thursday and Friday Tuesday closed.	Welcome Arab Summit at 8:30 p.m. every Saturday, Sunday and Monday and the play: What a Peace I Salam Ya Salam Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30				

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed in Turkish bomb blasts

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police said a 19-year-old man was killed on Friday in the southern city of Adana when a bomb he was trying to attach to an electrical transformer exploded prematurely. Anatolia news agency quoted police as saying the man was a "terrorist," adding that a gun found on his body was linked to three murders over the past two years. The agency gave no other details. In a separate incident, a 36-year-old man lightly wounded when a time-bomb exploded outside a primary school in Istanbul. A Turkish newspaper earlier listed the school as one of six in Istanbul slated to be closed and sold by the education ministry, and police said the bombing may have been a protest against such a move.

Plot to grow 'grass' in graveyard foiled

NICOSIA (AP) — A family's plan to grow marijuana in its cemetery plot went to pot when police nabbed Panayiotas Paskali, 42, and her son Dimitri, 16, watering four plants by the graves. "We had the plants at home, but they were doing poorly so my wife decided to take them into the open air in the graveyard to avoid getting in trouble," said Mr. Paskali's husband, Antonis, a 45-year-old taxi driver, when all three appeared in court Friday. After they were committed for trial for growing an illegal substance, Mr. Paskali shouted: "Why were we arrested? Smoking pot's allowed in Europe."

Cyprus wants halt to Albanian trial

NICOSIA (AP) — Parliament will appeal to world parliaments and human rights groups to intervene to stop Albania's alleged persecution of its ethnic Greek minority, officials said Friday. The appeal was prompted by the trial this week in the Albanian capital, Tirana, of five ethnic Greeks on espionage charges. "This trial is a travesty of justice and part of the persecution of the Greek minority," said Vassos Lyssarides, acting president of the Cyprus parliament composed entirely of Greek Cypriots. "We will appeal to international parliaments and human rights groups to intervene to stop the trial and the persecution," he added. Parliamentary party leaders also decided to send a delegation to Albania to observe the political-explosive trial. Mr. Lyssarides noted. The five Greeks were arrested in April following an attack by gunmen on an Albanian army training camp, killing two soldiers and wounding seven.

Two Pakistanis get Islamic justice in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Pakistani was beheaded Friday for drug smuggling and another had his hand cut off for looting, the interior Ministry announced. It said Kashkhan Fathi Khan, convicted by an Islamic court of smuggling heroin hidden in his intestines, was executed in the capital, Riyadh. Maatouf Ahal Banja was convicted of breaking into a depot for looting and had his right hand cut off at the wrist in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the ministry said. Islamic law, enforced in Saudi Arabia, prescribes beheading for convicted murderers and rapists, hand-cutting for thieves, and stoning for adulterers. Saudi Arabia's leading clerics ruled in 1987 that drug smugglers and peddlers should also be executed. Death sentences are usually carried out on Fridays in public squares outside mosques after noon prayers. More than 20 people, including Saudis, Pakistanis, Nigerians and Indians, have been beheaded so far this year for murder, narcotics-related crimes and rape.

AFP also 'liberated' with Paris

PARIS (AFP) — On Aug. 20, 1944, five days before the surrender of German troops in Paris, a group of French journalists and academics burst into the offices of the Vichy-run French information office and took over, giving birth to Agence France Presse. The group of resistance members crossed Paris by bicycle and entered AFP headquarters in the early morning, escorting a Nazi censor into the basement where he was locked up. Three-and-a-half hours later the first AFP dispatch hit the wire announcing that the oldest world news agency was back in business. The news agency, formerly known as Agence Havas after its founder in 1835 Charles-Louis Havas, was dismantled by the Nazis and the news branch became the official state news agency during World War II. But AFP's international network continued to live on through the Independent French Agency based at Mr. Havas' London offices. After the liberation, the various branches were reunited to become Agence France-Presse which obtained its current status as an independent news agency by an act of parliament in 1957.

China denounces killers in Algeria

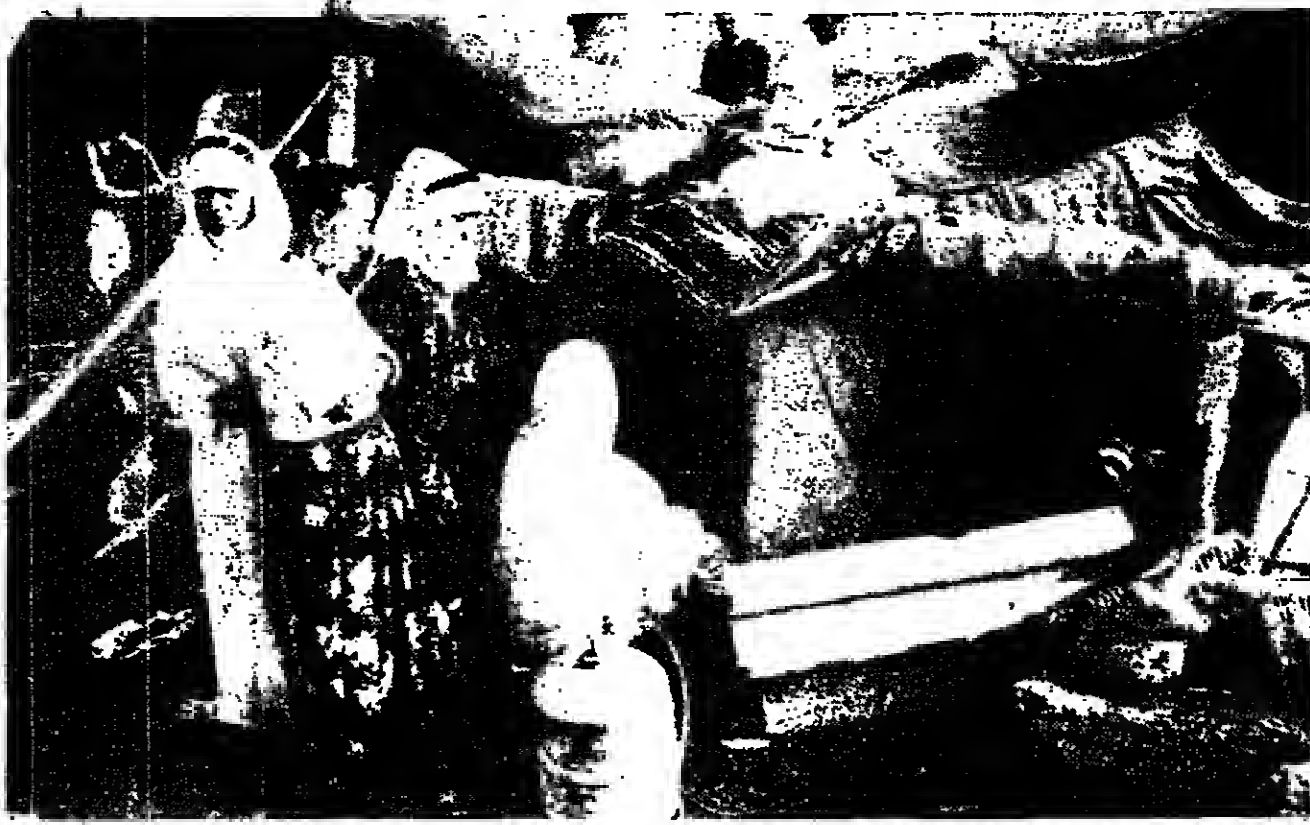
BEIJING (R) — China on Friday denounced the killing of two Chinese workers in Algeria four days ago and urged the Algerian government to guarantee the safety of its citizens there. State radio on Friday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the two, who worked for the Chinese Foreign Water Conservancy and Power Co., were shot dead by four "terrorists" while driving to a shopping centre close to their homes. "We are shocked and deeply grieved to learn that two innocent Chinese workers were killed by terrorists in Algeria and we strongly condemn this brutal act," the spokesman said. "We hope the Algerian government will handle the incident properly and take practical, effective measures to guarantee the safety of Chinese citizens in Algeria." The radio said Algerian security forces traded gunfire with the four gunmen, killing two on the spot. Muslim fundamentalists have been fighting Algeria's army-backed government since Jan. 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election which the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front looked set to win. More than 4,000 people have died in ensuing political violence and militants have told foreigners to leave the country on pain of death. The two Chinese were among some 60 foreigners killed since September last year.

Moroccan king pardons 102 on anniversary

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has granted pardons to 102 prisoners to mark the 41st anniversary of the exiling of his father King Mohammed V by the French authorities, the Justice Ministry said in a statement on Friday. The statement did not identify the prisoners who are all common criminals. Sent into exile in Madagascar by the French protectorate authorities on Aug. 20, 1953, King Mohammed was returned to his throne on Nov. 16, 1955 and the protectorate was abolished the following March. In March this year the king commuted to life imprisonment death sentences on 195 persons and in July he announced 424 political prisoners and exiles. He also pardoned 499 other prisoners on public holidays earlier this year.

Iran's legendary singer leaves Iran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marzieh, Iran's legendary artist and songstress who recently left the country, a met on Thursday with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian resistance's president-elect, at Auver-sur-Oise, France, the National Council of Resistance of Iran said. Marzieh, 69, learned music and the art of singing 50 years ago under some of the masters of Iranian music. Having performed some 1,000 songs in a span of half a century, she is recognised as Iran's greatest and most distinguished music star. "The mullahs' medieval dictatorship banned her from performing for the last 15 years; she never submitted to the conditions set by the criminal mullahs," said a council statement. "She left Iran to join the Iranian resistance and declare support for the resistance's president-elect." Mrs. Rajavi, identified Marzieh as "Iran's Um-Kolthoum," a "great singer of Iran's music and song, and a 'brilliant star' of Iranian art."



Homeless gather at the entrance of makeshift tents after their homes had been destroyed by an earthquake which

devastated a large part of northwestern Algeria early Thursday (AFP photo)

Algeria quake toll rises to 164

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Rescuers battled across rough terrain Friday to reach isolated victims of the earthquake which devastated much of northwestern Algeria while the provisional death toll rose from 159 to 164, officials said Friday.

The quake, which struck the mountainous Mascara area before dawn Thursday, left some 1,420 families, estimated at up to 10,000 people, homeless.

Rescue and relief operations in isolated villages, some of which were wiped out by the tremor, were hampered by bad mountain roads and wide cracks in the ground, but the army used helicopters to bring in water, food and medicine.

The provisional toll of those injured remained unchanged at 289, of which 196 were still in hospital.

The quake struck early Thursday when most people were asleep in their homes. Authorities said the army had rapidly deployed in the region to identify stricken villages and help rescue teams.

Hundreds of homeless were given tents and food at Hassine at the epicentre of the quake, where relief operations were also based.

"We have treated all the emergencies since Thursday," said a young civil de-

fense doctor.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi pledged that all homeless people would be relocated before winter sets in. Mr. Sifi and seven ministers including Interior Minister Abdel Rahman Meziane Cherif visited the region shortly after the quake struck.

Fearing epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever and tetanus, the authorities have ordered checks of drinking water and vaccinations of all injured.

Since Thursday, 5,000 tents and 8,000 blankets have been shipped to the quake area, where shortages of water and milk for children have been reported.

The government said it would also place 300 houses near Algiers originally built to accommodate public figures threatened by Muslim fundamentalists at the disposal of people made homeless by the quake.

Steps have been taken to boost security in the region, which is believed to harbour an Islamic extremist cell.

Thousands of people spent Thursday night under the stars around the levelled town of Hassine. The quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 5.6, according to Algerian officials.

Even in less-stricken areas, many people preferred to

sleep outdoors, fearing aftershocks could bring down their homes of them. No nighttime aftershocks were felt.

The Red Crescent set up a central depot in Hassine to collect donations. In France, the foreign ministry announced that the French government will send tents, blankets and medical material.

The pre-dawn quake and aftershocks, one reaching a magnitude of 5.1, devastated a large area in Mascara, collapsing thousands of mud-and-straw dwellings as their occupants slept.

In addition to the dead, at least 289 people were hurt, many by their collapsing roofs, officials said. Authorities have released no financial estimate of the damage.

Workers cleared roads of debris Friday to bring in aid, while helicopters flew supplies to remote areas. Feeding and medical stations were set up for children and old people.

Officials have appealed for blood donations, food, milk for children and blankets. They have warned that drinking water could soon be a short supply in the drought-stricken region.

No international request for aid has been launched, and two French medical relief

agencies overburdened with the Rwanda crisis said they would wait one before deciding whether to help out.

Medecins Sans Frontiers said that if a team was sent, strong security guarantees would be demanded to ensure their safety from Islamic rebels, who have killed 58 foreigners in the past year.

Another French agency, Secours Populaire Français, sent a small team to liaise with local charities and expressed the hope that gunmen would not kill aid workers.

The rebels hope to isolate and topple the country's military-backed regime, installed in a coup that robbed a Muslim fundamentalist party of election victory in January 1992.

Authorities decided that only the Red Crescent would be authorised to collect and ship gifts for quake victims after Islamic extremists organised relief operations in the wake of a deadly earthquake in Tipaza in 1989.

The Tipaza aid operations are believed to have helped the since-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front sweep local elections in June 1990.

In Paris, the FIS called on the people of Algeria and "mujahadeen" fighters to assist the victims of the earthquake.

Argentina blast probe is stalled

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentine prosecutors probing for new leads to last month's bomb blast that killed nearly 100 people at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires have returned home from Paraguay empty-handed.

"No link was found" Argentina's ambassador to Paraguay Raul Carigano told a radio station.

The prosecutors had hoped to get firm leads on the identity of the bombers after evidence provided by a key witness linking Iran to the bombing was thrown into doubt.

They flew to Paraguay Wednesday after Paraguayan authorities, with the help of Interpol, arrested a Lebanese national Friday who the local media said could be involved in the attack.

The man said he could provide evidence about the blast, but investigations led to a dead end.

Iran has repeatedly denied any participation in the attack.

About 4,000 people marched to a courthouse Thursday to demand justice in the bomb attack and to honour the dead.

So far, only one person has been detained: Carlos Telleldin, 33, an Argentine who owned the minivan used in the July 18 bombing. He has been charged with falsifying the auto's paperwork, but is not accused of any role in the attack.

"The subject of who bought the car is one taking-off point. But from there, the link in the chain is cut off," Ruben Beraja, president of the Delegación de Jewish Argentine Associations, told the newspaper Pagina 12.

A federal judge ordered four Iranians detained for questioning and named three Iranian diplomats as suspects Aug. 11.

But the legal proceedings have since ground to a halt. Under Argentine law, the supreme court handles cases involving foreign diplomats, but the court has not yet decided to take over the investigation from federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano.

Mr. Beraja praised Judge Galeano for his firm commitment, but said the magistrate had come up with "very few results" so far.

Mr. Galeano last week set off a major diplomatic crisis with Iran after issuing international arrest warrants for four Iranian officials who a witness linked to the attack.

But Mr. Galeano's whole case was based on evidence provided by Manoucher Motamer, a disaffected Iranian whose credentials as a witness have since been thrown into doubt.

Iranian Ambassador Hadi Soleimani threatened by President Carlos Menem with expulsion, left Argentina after his embassy, in a press statement, accused Mr. Galeano of building his case on the testimony of "unreliable or politically biased sources."

But Mr. Soleimani told reporters on arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad airport Thursday that his return did not mean the severance of Tehran-Buenos Aires diplomatic ties, Iran's RNA news agency said.

Tehran Radio quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday as saying Argentina was under U.S. and Israeli pressure in its dispute with Tehran over the bombing and urged it to act independently.

Mr. Velayati, quoted by Tehran Radio, said Washington and Israel were the main source of "malevolent propaganda and imaginary charges" linking Iran to the bombing.

U.S. Ambassador to Argentina James Cheek said Wednesday the Clinton administration suspected an Iranian connection and added Washington would support Argentina if it decided to break diplomatic ties with Tehran. But Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella Thursday reiterated the government would not rush to take such a step.

"Thank you very much for the offer, but for the time being, we make the decisions here," he told a radio interviewer.

COLUMN

Queen praises Canada for balancing cultures

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II congratulated Canada for balancing its different cultures but skirted controversy over the possible secession of French-speaking Quebec. "Since its creation this country, to a greater degree than most other nations, had to take up the challenge of integrating different cultures without putting them in the same mould," the queen told guests at a state dinner. "In the care with which Canada cherishes her own different cultures, she is showing the rest of the world her capabilities in partnership... they are qualities which all Canadians can rightly be proud of," she said. Dressed in a turquoise silk dress, the queen gave part of her address in slightly accented French. The 68-year-old monarch made no direct mention of Quebec but her comments were sure to be viewed by many Canadians as an oblique reference to the controversy. Since Canada gained independence from Britain in 1867, it has struggled to ease tensions between its French and English communities. The mainly French-speaking province of Quebec is in the middle of an election campaign that will likely result in a new separatist government.

Youth pleads not guilty in 1991 killing

NEW YORK (R) — A youth who was acquitted of murder of a rabbinical student during racial unrest in a New York neighbourhood in 1991 pleaded not guilty to federal charges of civil rights violations. Lemrick Nelson, 19, was found not guilty in 1992 of state charges of murder in the death of Australian Yankel Rosenbaum during riots that had broken out in the August 1991.

2-year-old tossed into the pool from balcony

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The father of a 2-year-old boy told police he was just trying to teach his son how to swim when he tossed him from a second-story balcony into the deep end of a swimming pool. The boy's adult cousin, Tony Wofford, saw what happened and dove into the pool. The boy was shaken, but otherwise fine. Michael Dwayne Willis Sr., 20, was arrested for investigation of child endangerment and was being held on \$50,000 bail, said police Cpl. Josef Levy. "I'm teaching my baby how to swim," he told police. The boy's mother, Shylise Simpson, said the baby had been getting used to water. "For the past few weeks, we've been taking him into the pool, and he's been learning to hold his breath," she said. "Thank God. But even though he's used to the water, he sure doesn't know how to swim."

Pensioners cancel holiday after Woodstock mix-up

LONDON (R) — An elderly British couple cancelled a holiday in the picture-book Oxfordshire village of Woodstock after seeing ravers on television dancing to pop music at the Woodstock '94 anniversary festival. The pensioners called the Marlborough Arms Hotel to cancel after confusing the sleepy English village with the American rock festival held to mark 25 years since the original hippy gathering in 1969. "They said they couldn't put up with the crowds and the loud pop music," hotel duty Manager Mike Davis said Friday. Bemused, he told them the classical concerts at Blenheim Palace, a nearby stately home, rarely disturbed the rural tranquility, but the sceptical caller refused to be placated. "No, we've seen it on the telly. It's a huge pop concert. There's no way we could put up with all the louts."

Lawyer named Lesotho premier

MASERU (Agencies) — Human rights lawyer Hae Phoofole was Friday sworn in as chairman of a provisional council to rule Lesotho for the next 12 months following a "royal coup" in which Prime Minister Ntsa Mokhehle was ousted.

At a ceremony conducted by Chief Justice Leboha Kheola at the royal palace here, five other members of the council, all appointed Friday by King Letsie III, were also sworn in.

Among them was the leader of the opposition Basotho National Party (BNP), Everistus Sekhonyana, who was named foreign minister.

Mr. King Letsie, who suspended sections of the constitution and dissolved parliament on Wednesday, presided over the brief ceremony but made no comment.

According to Mr. Phoofole, King Letsie had assumed executive and legislative powers and was now effective head of state. Previously he was merely a constitutional monarch.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, a solemn Phoofole said the occasion was "one to be joyous about."

"I came in at a very tough time, when peace and tranquility in Lesotho was at its lowest ebb," he said. "It is our task to try and bring peace and stability in the country."

Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, meanwhile, rejected military intervention in Lesotho at a meeting Friday. They said they first would pursue diplomatic efforts to end the crisis in the state of 1.8 million people entirely surrounded by South Africa.

The military option was discussed, but we decided should concentrate on peaceful methods to solve the situation," said a news

Sarajevo airlift halted as U.N. probes mortar blasts

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo was suspended until further notice Friday as the United Nations completed a probe into a mortar blast that hit the airport the previous day.

A U.N. spokesman said the airport was reopening to military traffic but that the airlift would remain down.

Meanwhile, a second U.N. investigation was launched after a French soldier was shot dead in the Bosnian capital early Friday in what Paris described as an "intolerable" action against a man whose mission was "entirely in the service of peace."

Initial findings showed that the peacekeeper had been deliberately targeted, a U.N. spokesman said here.

Paratrooper Jean-Marc Carboneau, 22, was shot in the head with a 5.5-mm bullet which pierced his helmet while he was on guard at an observation post between the Bosnian government and Serb sectors, near the Jewish cemetery, the U.N. said.

He was the 22nd French soldier and 24th French national to be killed since fighting broke out in ex-Yugoslavia.

A statement read by U.N. spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Bertrand Labarousse said the soldier was "fatally wounded by a direct hit aimed through an aperture in his observation post."

Investigators have not yet determined where the shot was fired from, but the killer must have been no more than 200 metres away, he added.

Another spokesman, Roh Annink, said meanwhile that the investigation launched early Friday to determine which side blasted the airport runway with a mortar on Thursday afternoon had been halted, but would give no

report was reopened

aid flights to the capital, the Serbs have closed land routes in and out of Sarajevo that were only opened in March. That has caused a severe

deterioration in the city's food supply.

Normally, the U.N. relief workers distribute nearly 2,000 tonnes of food every two weeks in the city of 350,000 people. Now, there are only about 420 tonnes of food in stock, and the last handout was three weeks ago, U.N. spokesman Ron Redmond said in Geneva.

He said Sarajevo's only bakery was producing about half of its normal 80,000 loaves a day.

Mr. Redmond also reported Friday that Bosnian Serbs had expelled 110 Muslims from the Bijeljina area in northeast Bosnia, bringing to more than 400 the number of Muslims forced out of the region since mid-July. They arrived in Muslim-held Tuzla, northeast of Sarajevo, late Thursday.

The Bosnian Serbs have grown increasingly intransigent since refusing an international peace plan accepted by Muslims and Croats. That led their patrons in Serbia, increasingly squeezed by harsh international economic sanctions, to sever ties and vital supplies on Aug. 4.

Citizens of Serb-held Bosnia are to vote Aug. 27-28 on the peace plan, which would reduce Serb holdings from 70 per cent of Bosnia to 49 per cent and give the rest to a Muslim-Croat federation. They are expected to reject it.

On Thursday, Bosnian and Croatian Serbs proclaimed their desire to unite with Serbia and Montenegro in a "greater Serbia." The announcement appeared timed to increase Bosnian Serb opposition to the peace plan before the vote.

But President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, widely seen as the instigator of three years of Balkan warfare, is unlikely to go along. Mr. Milosevic wants to have crushing U.N. economic sanctions lifted on the Serbian-dominated remnants of Yugoslavia.